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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Should public school students in the CNMI have school uniforms?

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INSIDE



EUDL Program

The CNMI is asked to help other U.S. territories implement their EUDL program.

LOCAL...Page 7



Foremost Donation

Foremost Foods Saipan shares its commitment to a healthy and fit lifestyle.

BUSINESS...Page 13



15th Year

Giovanni's turns 15 this Friday, with a bash called "Broadway, the American Musical."

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

'Appointment of teacher rep will not happen this year' PAGE 5
12 sobriety checkpoints scheduled this weekend. PAGE 9



CULTURAL EXPLORATION

Northern Marianas College Student Support Services program staff and students take time to pose for a group photo during a cultural exploration that focused on Saipan during World War II. During the exploration, the students and SSS staff visited locations associated with the WWII era, such as the Kalabera Cave, Banzai Cliff, Suicide Cliff, and the Last Command Post. The group was also accompanied by John Castro of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Historic Preservation Office, who engaged the group in history lectures and stories at the locations and at the CNMI Museum. The SSS program is a federally funded program at NMC sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education that aims to provide students with opportunities for academic development, and services toward the successful completion of their postsecondary education.

NMC

Scientists say exoplanet could be the smallest ever found

By FRANK JORDANS and RAPHAEL G. SATTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

GENEVA (AP)—Scientists say they've

identified a sun-like star with as many as seven different planets—including one that might be the smallest ever found outside the solar system.

If confirmed, the planetary system

around HD 10180, a star more than 100 light years distant, would be the richest ever discovered. One astronomer says it's part of a growing body of evidence that the universe is full of planets—and that

several could be similar to our own.

"The really nice thing about finding systems like this is that it shows that there are many more out there," said Alan Boss, of the Washington-based Carnegie Institution for Science, who

See EXOPLANET on Page 4

CNMI wants to regain entry, exit monitoring

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Nine months after the federal government took over CNMI border control, the Fitial administration plans to put in place its own system for monitoring the entry and exit of international passengers in the Commonwealth.

See MONITOR on Page 4

Homeless? Sorry, CNMI lacks means to help you

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Homelessness is becoming a serious concern on Saipan as the Mayor's Office confirmed receiving two cases of CNMI residents that could not afford to pay for a roof over their heads.

Human resource manager Martha Sa-

blan told *Saipan Tribune* that the first instance was last month when a female Chuukese in her late 40s went to the Saipan Mayor's Office to seek help because she did not have a house where she could stay.

Saipan Tribune learned that the female Chuukese went to the office last month

See HOMELESS on Page 4

Senators lukewarm on Saipan casino bill

» Up to 5 casino licenses in first 5 years
» \$300 per day for commissioners

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Some senators said yesterday they are either going to vote "no" on the Saipan casino bill that the House of Representatives passed on Tuesday, or will respect the passage of a Senate resolution in April blocking any legislation to legalize

casino operations on the island.

Others said they have yet to see the casino bill.

Senate floor leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), author of Senate Resolution 17-14, maintains that House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio's (Cov-Saipan) casino bill will get killed in the Senate.

See SENATORS on Page 4



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Local

BOE hikes salaries of special education, Head Start directors

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Education has ap-

proved a new pay scale for the directors of its Special Education and Head Start programs to align their compensation packages

with public school principals.

Board member Herman T. Guerrero, who is also chairman of the committee on fiscal and per-

sonnel affairs, said the decision was based on the huge responsibility of both program officials.

"The decision is to align their pay scale with the school principals where there's a higher and lower end based on their credentials. They must be an HQA [highly qualified administrator] to receive the higher compensation," Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* after Friday's board meeting in Capital Hill.

The Head Start program provides learning assistance to children 3 to 5 years old before they enter kindergarten and first grade. The special education program caters to the needs of children with special needs.

Both receive federal assistance for their operations and personnel.

Unlike school administrators, the salaries of the Head Start and Special Education program directors are sourced from federal grants.

"[The increase] has nothing to do with local funds ... because they're funded by federal grants," Guerrero pointed out.

He described the responsibilities and duties of both program directors as equally important as that of school principals.

"The responsibility is humongous. Running the special education and the Head Start centers is almost like principals running their schools. With the Special Education program, there are a lot of requirements in complying with federal regulations and the program director has the responsibility to ensure that it meets all the requirements," Guerrero said.

The Head Start director currently receives a salary of up to

\$50,000 per year depending on qualifications, while the Special Education program director is provided the same amount, excluding differential pay as approved by the board.

With the decision to align their salaries with principals, both positions will now be able

to receive up to a maximum of \$60,000 per annum.

At present, the Head Start director position is vacant following the retirement of Keiko Yamataga last month, while Susanne Lizama serves as the Special Education program director/coordinator.

Dollar Concert for a Cause to raise funds for cancer victim

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The family of a Filipino singer on Saipan who had undergone an operation in the Philippines for breast cancer will hold a fundraising concert to help defray the cost of the surgical procedure.

"A Dollar Concert for a Cause" will be held this Saturday from 5pm to 9pm at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater

to raise funds for the cost of operation of Violy Lapuz.

The concert will feature musician Walden Beri, Lapuz's husband, their son Dhen, and other performers such as the Past and Present Syndicate Band, Patz and Badjho, and Mary Anne Alovera.

Besides the live entertainment, Beri said there will be a raffle draw for all those who will watch the concert. Prizes for the raffle draw are donated by various community members and organizations.

Beri told *Saipan Tribune* that his wife Lapuz was operated on last Monday at the Philippine General Hospital in Manila to remove cancer cells in her right breast.

According to Beri, his wife

needs more than \$3,000 to pay her hospital bills before she can be discharged.

Beri, who is currently jobless, is seeking financial assistance from the community to help settle his wife's hospital bills.

United Workers Movement NMI president Rabby Syed is urging community members, including those that have been entertained by Lapuz's singing prowess, to extend a helping hand.

"As workers here in the CNMI, we are not entitled to Medicaid facilities. On these rare occasions, we need help from our brothers and sisters in the community. Let us work together and offer help

to those in need," said Syed.

Syed said any amount of contribution, monetary or in kind, will be appreciated. Donations for raffle draw prizes are also welcome, he added.

Pilipino Contract Workers Association, Inc. president Ronnie Doca is calling all members of the Filipino community to provide assistance, big or small, to a *kababayan* (compatriot) in need.

"Ito ang tamang panahon para tayo ay magkaisa at magdamayan [This is the time for us to unite and help one another]," he said.



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NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD MEETING

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda
Thursday, September 2, 2010
6:00 PM, Zoning Conference Room,
Joeten Building, Saipan

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
5. Communications
6. Public Comments

B. Reports

1. Chairperson
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Administrator
5. Committees
6. Legal Counsel

C. Permits/ Applications/ Rezones: review and decide.

1. Conditional Use application #2010-0040 containing lot# 008 H 28, Chalan Kanoa Dist#2 (along Beach Road) for Warehousing and General Wholesaling.

D. Old Business.

1. Update on Zoning Office Operations (Permit Processing, Enforcement, Junk Car Program)

E. New Business.

1. Restructure of Board Meetings to include Public Hearings
2. Adult Business Overlay District and Adult Business Parks - Update

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous

1. Other Matters
2. Announcements
3. Next Meeting

H. Adjourn

USDA says it will consider proposed changes to food stamp MOU

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has said it "will consider any proposed amendments" by the CNMI to improve the existing agreement on the food stamp program, which U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan has been encouraging

IN SUIT OVER ALLEGED ROTA LAND ABUSE

Judge finds several disputed facts

The Superior Court has ruled that there are still several facts in dispute in the lawsuit filed by Dr. Paterno B. Hocog against several investors and the Commonwealth Ports Authority over the alleged destruction of his land in connection with the \$8.6 million Rota Airport Runway Improvement Project.

In denying Hocog's motion for summary judgment, associate judge David A. Wiseman said the disagreement between Hocog and OKP (CNMI) Corp. in the assessment of the property is a factual dispute that would best be decided at trial.

Other disputes in material facts include whether Hocog knew and agreed to the increase in the amount of material to be excavated from his property, as well as the actual grade of the property to the abutting highway, the judge said.

"The court need not address any additional arguments since there are two conflicting material facts relating to the central issue of this case that warrant denying [Hocog's] motion [for summary judgment]," the

the Fitial administration to do since last year.

Kevin W. Concannon, undersecretary of USDA's Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, expressed his office's willingness to consider any such proposal from the CNMI.

Concannon, in a letter to Sablan, said the FNS Western Regional Office "is aware

of the unique situation in the CNMI and will consider any proposed amendments to the MOU that are put forth by the CNMI government."

He said the CNMI government is currently working with FNS' Western Regional Office on the fiscal year 2011 memorandum of agreement.

"I encourage you to work with the CNMI Department of Community and Cultural Affairs to ensure that your specific concerns are addressed in the official MOU proposals submitted by the CNMI government. FNS looks forward to working with CNMI on an MOU for FY 2011 that meets the nutrition needs of its residents to the fullest extent possible," Concannon told Sablan.

The CNMI Food and Nutri-

tion Program, which administers the federally-funded food stamp program, is under DCCA.

Sablan, in an interview, said he wrote to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial twice since last year to work with USDA to improve the terms of the food stamp MOU between the CNMI and the USDA. This MOU is up for renewal.

He again wrote to the Fitial administration in July with five recommendations that he said would result in more food stamp assistance, especially to recipients on Tinian and Rota.

"At this time when the government is cutting work hours, people really have a difficult time, the least we could do is make sure the program that is available to us works. And yet he won't ask for it. This is un-

acceptable. He never responded to our letters. He never asked for it. I know he didn't ask for it because I met with the undersecretary of USDA and he said he never received anything [from the CNMI]," Sablan said.

Some government employees facing 16-hour work cuts every pay period in FY 2011 said they might start applying for food stamp to make ends meet.

Sablan's five recommendations to improve the MOU include giving higher benefits to Tinian and Rota residents because of the higher cost of food on those islands.

Sablan also asked for the use of the Standard Utility Allowance to better account for household utility costs, and to reset household asset limits to

conform with the 2008 Farm Bill, allowing for annual inflation adjustments.

He also recommends that when the number of food stamp users rises in the CNMI, the available funding will increase as well.

The CNMI's Nutrition Assistance Program registered over a thousand additional food stamp recipients in calendar year 2009. The food stamp program served 8,591 individuals in 2009, an increase of 1,078 from 2008's 7,513.

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Van der Maas, FTC work to resolve subpoena issue

Businessman Erick Van der Maas had talked with the Federal Trade Commission to resolve FTC's subpoena in connection with its lawsuit in Illinois against several corporations and individuals for alleged deceptive and abusive telemarketing practices.

Van der Maas, FTC, and the U.S. government disclosed in court papers that, after some preliminary discussions, they are optimistic that, with more time, they could resolve the matter without court intervention.

Attorney Stephen Nutting, counsel for Van der Maas, signed a joint motion yesterday

with James H. Davis of FTC and assistant U.S. Attorney Jessica F. Cruz, asking the U.S. District Court for the NMI to reschedule the hearing set for today, Aug. 26, to Sept. 16, 2010, at 9am.

Designated judge David A. Wiseman granted the request.

Last month, FTC asked the federal court to compel Van der Maas to comply with the FTC's subpoena requesting him to produce documents and information relating to Asia Pacific Telecom Inc.

FTC alleged that Van der Maas has not provided any substantive response to the subpoena. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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EXOPLANET

From Page 1

wasn’t involved with the find. “Mother Nature really had fun making planets.” Although most of the planets identified are large—about 13 to 25 times the mass of our home—those behind the discovery, announced Tuesday at an international conference in France, say they’re nearly certain they’ve identified one only 1.4 times the size of Earth. Planets found outside the solar system are called “exoplanets” and this would be the smallest one ever spotted. Scientists have been successfully hunting exoplanets for about 15 years, and they’ve now catalogued some 450.

HOMELESS

From Page 1

looking for Mayor Donald Flores, claiming she was in need of a house. According to her, she used to stay with her daughter and her kids, who left her suddenly without saying anything. A few days after her daughter left, the female Chuukese received a letter asking her to vacate what she thought was her daughter’s house. When she sought help from the mayor’s office, she was referred to NMHC’s MIHA program and the Karidat Services for lack of a program and funding for homeless people. Sablan said the other homeless case they received at their office on Aug. 23 involved a female Chamorro mother in her mid-30s, along with her 10-year old son. According to Sablan, she called Karidat Services for help but was told that they do not have enough funding to help the mother and son. Karidat did not return *Saipan Tribune’s* calls as of press time yesterday.

MONITOR

From Page 1

This new system will be made through changes in the regulations of the Division of Customs Service. Under the proposal, CNMI Customs will require a digital summary list of passengers and cargo bound for the CNMI prior to their arrival into the Commonwealth, and an official passenger manifest upon arrival. The required information will include the “passport number and country of issuance for each international passenger.” Finance Secretary Robert Schrack said the purpose of the regulations “is to provide a system for the monitoring of the entry and exit of individuals from the territory of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.” Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked yesterday for comments, said the CNMI government or Customs currently does not have access to passenger manifest. “It will give Customs its own data at seaport and airport. This is a proposed expansion of authority to better regulate passengers and cargo,” he told *Saipan Tribune*. The proposed regulations address the “provision of passenger information by air carriers prior to entry into the Commonwealth.” There are at least five subsections of the Department of Finance regulations

But most finds have been limited to one or two or three planets per star, usually gargantuan balls of gas similar to Jupiter or Saturn. But at up to seven planets, the new discovery nearly matches our own solar system, which counts eight. Christophe Lovis of Geneva University, one of the scientists behind the find, said the first five were most comparable to Neptune. “They are made essentially of rocks and ice. They have a solid core. But on top of that is a layer of gas, of hydrogen and helium most likely,” he said. “They are probably not habitable.” The sixth is possibly a Saturn-like planet, while the seventh, the smallest, would be so close to its star that its “year” would take just over a day.

Since the mayor’s office does not have a program that caters to homelessness prevention, Sablan said she and other employees went ahead and gave the mother and son futon, clothes and food. Sablan also offered to let them stay in her property in Garapan but the mother refused since she wanted to settle close to her son’s school, the William S. Reyes Elementary School. The Chamorro mother requested to be dropped off at a spot behind the Aquarius Beach Tower. When Sablan went back the next day to bring them more food items and clothing, the mother and son were already gone. Sablan said she is now working closely with the Salvation Army’s Wayne Gillespie who met with her to discuss what can be done in similar cases in the future. John Hirsh, executive director for the American Red Cross NMI Chapter, acknowledged the difficulty in addressing the issue of homelessness since there is no existing shelter that caters to homeless people. The Red Cross office does not have

that will be deleted and replaced with new ones. One of those is a subsection that replaces an old one. “Advance copies of passenger manifest and required in subsections (a)(1) shall be submitted to the Service in digital form immediately upon departure from international port; however the official passenger manifest shall be presented at time of arrival with any differences noted in previously submitted manifest. The Service will accept official passenger manifest only at time of arrival of the carrier,” the proposed new Subsection 70-10.1-301(a)(3) reads. Another proposed subsection pertains to the delivery of documents. “One hour prior to departure, the master of a vessel or aircraft shall deliver to the customs agent the following documents: (1) One copy of the general declaration for the port of destination; (2) One copy of passenger and cargo manifests for the port of destination; and (3) If the flight or voyage has intermediate stops before reaching its final destination, one copy of the passenger and cargo manifests for each intermediate port,” it says. The proposals also include deleting a section and replacing it with one defining international travel. “Any travel originating from within the Commonwealth and terminating at any port outside the United States, or terminating at a port in the Commonwealth by transiting or traveling by way

Lovis and his team haven’t been able to observe the planets directly, which is typical. Few planets can be seen against the blazing light given off by their much more massive parent stars. The European Southern Observatory compares the challenge to “spotting a dim candle in front of a raging forest fire.” So the scientists used the observatory’s 3.6 meter (11.8 foot) telescope at La Silla, Chile, to study the star itself. Over six years, they took 190 measurements, checking it for the telltale wobbling caused by the gravitational forces of nearby planets. Boss noted that the method was “biased toward finding the big guys” because the greater the planet, the greater its gravity and the more it made its par-

a homelessness prevention program, he added. “It’s hard to maintain a shelter,” Hirsh said, adding that tough requirements such as 24/7 access to the facility and availability of shelter workers, and a counselor, to name a few, make the task more difficult to accomplish. He also said some of the facilities here like Karidat cannot operate due to lack of funding. Hirsh suggested that there should be a meeting of all social service providers on island to discuss and attend to vital issues such as homelessness. The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc. currently runs a program called Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program but this is funded by a one-time stimulus grant. It received total funding of \$335,224 and only about \$50,000 is left, according to NMPASI executive director Jim Rayphand in an earlier interview. The program allows beneficiaries to receive benefits of up to 18 months but Rayphand said the money they got only allows them to extend benefits up to a maximum of six months. About 200 families have already availed of the program, Rayphand said.

of any port outside the United States, or any travel originating from outside of the United States and terminating at any port in the Commonwealth,” the proposed Subchapter 70-10.1-050(x) states. The proposed changes also include a definition of “manifest,” which is a “summary list of passengers and cargo on board a carrier that complies with Advanced Passenger Information Systems (AFIS) requirements. This information is to include the passport number and country of issuance for each international passenger.” The proposal also includes a definition of “international passenger,” which is any person arriving at a Commonwealth port of entry originating from a port outside of the United States.” The public has 30 days from the Aug. 16 publication of the proposed regulations in the Commonwealth Register to provide comments. Comments should be addressed to the Finance secretary. The federal government officially took control of CNMI immigration on Nov. 28, 2009. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security and its agencies, including the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, now administer immigration in the Commonwealth, pursuant to Public Law 110-2209, which President Bush signed in May 2008. The same law gave the CNMI its first non-voting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

ent star wobble. But he said the discovery showed that finding smaller planets was still possible. “This field has gone from zero to close to 500 planets in just 15 years,” he said. “Fifteen years ago we did not know about the big guys. Earth-like

SENATORS

From Page 1

Six senators voted “yes” on Reyes’ resolution in April, one voted “no,” and two abstained. Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), one of those who voted “yes” on the resolution, said yesterday he will not only vote “no” on the bill, but will also “lobby hard” to make sure it does not pass in the Senate. He said the struggling casino industry on Tinian will be further harmed by establishing a casino industry on Saipan. Just like the sentiment of most Republican lawmakers in the House, Hofschneider said that Saipan voters already thumbed down the casino initiative in 2007. Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) separately said yesterday that he will vote “no” on the casino bill. “For over a decade, Tinian has been trying its best to put up a casino industry on Tinian. I wish others would just support the Tinian and Rota casino industries instead of doing something to make it harder for these two islands,” Cruz said. He added that he would rather see Saipan voters decide on the casino proposal through another initiative rather than through legislation. Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) and Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) said they have yet to fully review the bill. “Besides, our priority now is the budget bill,” said Taimanao, who chairs the Fiscal Affairs Committee. Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota), for his part, said the Senate expressed its sentiment on the casino bill when it passed SR 17-14 in April. “The Senate now is focused on the budget bill,” he said. Sens. Luis Crisostimo (D-Saipan), Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) and Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Saipan) were not available for comment yesterday. Back in April, Crisostimo voted “no” on the resolution to block casinos on Saipan, while San Nicolas, along with Taimanao, abstained from voting. Torres voted “yes” on Reyes’ resolution at that time. The Senate is set to hold a session next week to act on the budget bill, and the casino bill will not be on the agenda, said the Senate president.

Up to 5 casino licenses initially

House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), in a phone interview yesterday, said senators have to be open-minded about helping the CNMI economy grow. He reiterated that the casino bill will benefit not only Saipan, but also Rota and Tinian. His House Bill 17-55, House Substitute 1 gives Rota and Tinian 25 percent each of the revenue that will be generated by Saipan casinos. The other 50 percent will go to Saipan. The 25 percent share of Rota and Tinian is much bigger than the origi-

planets are going to be quite commonplace.” The find was made by researchers from Switzerland, France, Germany, and Portugal and has been submitted to the journal *Astronomy and Astrophysics*.

nal bill’s proposed 2.5 percent. The business gross revenue tax from Saipan casinos will go toward the Retirement Fund. Under the speaker’s bill, there will be up to five casino licenses that will be issued during the first five years of the signing of the bill. After that, the proposed Saipan Casino Commission will have the authority to determine if there is a need to issue more casino licenses on Saipan. The casinos can either be on land or afloat; meaning, the bill also allows for floating casinos. Any casino investor will have to invest at least \$100 million in order to be granted a casino license on Saipan.

Commissioners’ salary

Tenorio’s substitute bill proposes to pay the five members of the Saipan Casino Commission \$300 per day and \$150 for half-day of time spent in the performance of their duties. The original HB 17-55 gives each commissioner an annual salary of \$75,000. Juan M. Sablan, a businessman and president of the Commonwealth Retirement Association, earlier recommended that the annual commissioner salary be lowered to \$50,000 from \$75,000. The substitute bill also changes the composition of the Saipan Casino Commission. Instead of five members from Saipan, the new bill now calls for only three members from Saipan, one from Rota, and one from Tinian. Each member will serve a term of four years each. Tenorio has another pending casino bill, HB 17-56.

Only Republican

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), the only Republican member of the House who voted “yes” on the casino bill, said he believes that a casino industry will help reinvigorate the CNMI economy. He said Saipan could still be a tropical paradise even with casinos. House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) and five other Republicans voted “no” on the casino bill. Those who voted “yes” on it included six Covenant Party members, three independents, and one Republican. Two Republicans and one independent abstained from voting, while one Covenant was absent during the voting. In the Nov. 3, 2007 elections, Saipan voters who voted “no” to the Saipan casino initiative outnumbered the “yes” votes, 4,721 to 3,492. The “no” to casino prevailed in all Saipan districts. At that time, Rota voters approved an initiative to establish a casino industry on the island. One investor has so far applied for and was granted a conditional license to operate a casino on Rota. On Tinian, only Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino has been in operation since 1998.

'Appointment of teacher rep will not happen this year'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After a meeting with Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos last week, Board of Education member Herman T. Guerrero said Friday that the appointment of a public school teacher representative to the board will not happen this year.

He said the Executive Branch official had confirmed that they will wait for legislation to be passed clarifying how the teacher representative will be selected.

Guerrero and board chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita met with Inos Tuesday noon last week to talk about the three vacant positions on the board: the public school teachers' representative, the private schools' representative, and the student representative. All three are non-voting.

The last public school teachers' representative was Ambrose Bennett. His term expired in January 2008. The governor did not appoint anyone to the post due to constitutional issues that need to be addressed through legislation.

The governor has also yet to reappoint Scott Norman as the private schools' representative

or name a replacement for his position. Norman's term expired in October last year.

The appointment of a student representative remains pending. The last one was Francine Babauta, who just graduated. Rota High School principal Sharlene Manglona will make the recommendation for the new student rep.

"It [appointment] may not happen this year...because nobody seems to be doing it. Legislation needs to be enacted before the administration can make the appointment for the teacher rep," Guerrero told the board during Friday's meeting on Capital Hill.

Prior to the meeting, the board sent letters to the administration about the vacancies.

"We asked the lieutenant governor if he can make the appointment, especially the teacher reps and we asked what are the concerns that they may have on this issue. ...Since there's a need for legislation to be enacted, he suggested that perhaps we can help the Legislature in drafting it," Guerrero said.

The delay in the appointment of a teacher rep is due to an unmet constitutional requirement: the certification

of a possible candidate by a collective bargaining agent of public school teachers.

The Association of Commonwealth Teachers had amended its bylaws and recommended its president to the position but no appointment has been made to date.

The board had emphasized in the past that it has no authority to involve itself in the selection of candidates for the position. In 2008, Bennett asked for the court's opinion on the constitutional amendment requiring an exclusive bargaining representative of teachers after ACT chose Betty Miller as its president and nominated her appointment. The court junked Bennett's request.



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Freshman lawmaker volunteers to retain current discretionary fund

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

He is so far a lone wolf, but he is hoping others will follow suit.

Rep. Trenton B. Conner (R-Tinian) wants to retain his current discretionary funding of \$86,796 instead of increasing it to \$130,000, as proposed in the fiscal year 2011 budget bill, in solidarity with government employees facing up to 25 percent salary cut.

Conner, a freshman lawmaker, wants the \$43,204 that would be given to his office to be allocated instead to the Tinian Municipal Scholarship.

Conner formally asked Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) about this in an Aug. 23 letter, a copy of which was obtained yesterday.

Conner asked Taimanao to consider his request by inserting a language in the budget bill that will give the \$43,204 to the Tinian Municipal Scholarship.

Taimanao, in an interview yesterday, said she respects Conner's request.

"That's a very good decision on the congressman's part. I just wish more legislators will come forward and request the same so we would be able to give more money to critical public services like education, public health and public safety," Taimanao said.

Conner, in a separate interview, said he voted "yes" on the minority bloc's proposed amendment to the budget bill last week, to retain the current discretionary funding of each lawmaker instead of increasing it to \$130,000. But minority leader Diego T. Benavente's (R-Saipan) amendment got defeated.

Conner also voted "no" on the motion to end debate, because he said he wanted more discussion on the budget bill. But the "yes" votes had it. When it came down to voting on the budget bill, Conner said he voted "yes" because not only the Legislature is running out of time, but because he believed the budget is balanced. He said Tinian also got a fair share of the budget.

He hopes his colleagues will also decide to retain their current discretionary budget, which each lawmaker receives annually, on top of their salary and leadership or chairmanship funding.

"Please consider this request if the Senate will not make any changes. If changes are made pertaining to this matter, then I shall await the Senate's proposed changes," he said.

The Senate's six-member Fiscal Affairs Committee is now reviewing the \$132 million budget bill that the House passed on Aug. 18.



Conner

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13 designated as polling sites for November election

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thirteen locations on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian have been named official polling stations by the Commonwealth Election Commission for the Nov. 2 polls.

The commission designated Tuesday the following polling stations for each precinct level:

■ For Precinct 1 voters, the official polling sites are the Hopwood Junior High School, Dandan Elementary School, and Koblerville Youth Center and will covers registrants from San Antonio, San Vicente, and Koblerville areas;

■ For Precinct 2 voters, the official polling site is the Joeten Kiyu Public Library and will cover registrants from Chalan

Kanoa and Susupe areas;

■ For Precinct 3 voters, the official polling sites are the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium and Garapan Elementary School and will cover registrants from Oleai and Garapan areas;

■ For Precinct 4 voters, the official polling stations are the Tanapag Youth Center, the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, Jesus P. Mafnas Legislative Building, and the Northern Islands. Precinct 4 voters are from Tanapag, San Roque, Capitol Hill, and Northern Islands;

■ For Precinct 5, the official polling station is the Kagman Community Center and will cover voters from Kagman;

■ For Precinct 6, the official polling station is Tinian Elementary School and will

encompass all voters on Tinian; and

■ For Precinct 7, the official polling station is the Northern Marianas College campus on

Rota and will cover all registrants on the island.

As of Aug. 25, the Election Commission recorded a total of 16,435 registered voters on

three islands, a slight increase from last month's 16,345 voters. According to the commission website, Saipan has 13,361 registered voters as

Fund, admin negotiating teams join forces to push pension bond initiative

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Both negotiating teams of the NMI Retirement Fund and the Fital administration have joined forces to push the pension obligation bond initiative among voters in the November election.

During Tuesday's special meeting of the Fund board of trustees, both camps expressed willingness and commitment to help the Commonwealth Election Commission educate the public about the bond initiative.

Two of this year's three legislative initiatives on the ballot cover the Retirement Fund. House Legislative Initiative

17-1 wants to add a new section 10 to Article X of the CNMI Constitution to authorize the Commonwealth to issue a pension obligation bond to pay its debt to the Fund. House Legislative Initiative 16-13, meantime, prohibits any increase in retirement benefits until all government obligations to the Fund have been satisfied or the

agency is fully funded.

A court judgment in June last year had determined that the central government owes the pension program over \$231 million in unpaid employer contributions—and the figure is rising.

Tony Muña, head of the administration's negotiating panel, told the board Tuesday that all of his team members will play an active part in educating voters. Muña attended the meeting with other members of his group.

"I have no objection to that...and we will meet with the lieutenant governor to further discuss this issue," he told the board.

According to Fund legal counsel Viola Alepuyo, the Fund has already received many inquiries about the role the Fund will play in educating the public about the initiatives.

Since the initiatives are tied with the Fund's lawsuit against the government, she said it is imperative that both parties take an active part.

According to Election

Commission legal counsel Meaghan Hassel-Shearer, the commission will be printing materials to educate the voters on these initiatives and had asked the help of the Northern Marianas College's Current Issues students in disseminating the information.

Acting Fund board chair Jerry Crisostomo recommended the formulation of a question-and-answer format.

Hassel-Shearer also said the commission will be working with the KSPN news program to run an informative campaign before Election Day.

The Fund and both negotiating teams also want the Commonwealth Retirees Association to help them disseminate the information to voters.

Juan Sablan, president of the CRA, asked the board and the negotiating teams to address their membership assembly next month to better persuade retirees to support the initiatives.

Retirees are split on the pension obligation bond and have asked CRA officials not to take an official stand on the issue until a survey is done among members.

of yesterday while Tinian has 1,450 and Rota, 1,624.

Registration for the Nov. 2 polls will continue until Sept. 3.

Lawyer in money laundering case wants to plead guilty

» Criminal case vs Aguilar transferred to Guam

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Attorney Danilo T. Aguilar has expressed his intention to plead guilty to the charges filed in federal court that he took \$184,947.49 in proceeds from a fraudulent Citibank cashier's check.

Aguilar and his counsel, Peter C. Perez, signed with the U.S. government a "consent to transfer of case for plea and sentencing."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley signed the document on behalf of the U.S. government. U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and NMI Alicia Limtiaco approved the consent.

In the consent filed yesterday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI, the Guam-based Aguilar stated that he is aware that a complaint is pending against him in federal court on Saipan.

"I wish to waive trial and to plead guilty to the charges described in that complaint, and hereby consent to disposition of the case in the District of Guam in which I am present, and to waive trial in the District of the Northern Mariana Islands," Aguilar said.

Aguilar is being accused of two counts of laundering of monetary instruments.

The U.S. District Court for the NMI had summoned Aguilar to appear in court tomorrow, Thursday. The case is now transferred in the federal court on Guam.

Special agent Shaun Morita of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation stated that Aguilar had admitted "in substance" to willingly taking the proceeds of the fraudulent cashier's check and authorizing distribution of the funds.

Morita said that, according to Aguilar, he panicked once the Bank of Guam froze his bank accounts and immediately began withdrawing funds from First Hawaiian Bank to cover business and personal expenses.

Morita said the lawyer admitted receiving the fraudulent cashier's check in the mail.

The agent said Aguilar claimed he knew it was wrong not to return the funds as the Bank of Guam had requested, but he was not thinking properly at the time.

Morita said the scheme began on March 13, 2009, when Aguilar directed his employee to deposit a cashier's check—purportedly drawn on a Citibank account amounting to \$298,960—into a Bank of Guam business checking account.

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Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,	Civil Action
Plaintiff,	No. 08-0214-CV
vs.	NOTICE OF SALE
LAURA I. MANGLONA and	
THOMAS M. MANGLONA,	
Defendants.	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on July 23, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in the following property: Lot No. 003 R 30 (formerly known as Block 31, Lot 6), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 003 R 00, the original of which was registered 12 NOV 71 as Document No. 1290 at Land Registry, Saipan, situated on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 651 square meters, more or less, and recorded at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office on 12 SEP 96 as Document No. 96-2289.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on September 24, 2010, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.
1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
c) To reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, PO Box 5003758 (K, Saipan, MP 9695, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.

3. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 10th day of August, 2010.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

GREGORY J. KOEBEL, Esq.
O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes
Second Floor, Marianas Business Plaza
One Nauru Loop
P.O. Box 501969
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 234-5684
Fax. No. (670) 234-5683
Attorney for Plaintiff Wells Fargo Financial

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO	CIVIL
FINANCIAL,	ACTION
Plaintiff,	No. 09-0481
vs.	SECOND
ALBERT U.	AMENDED
CHARFAUROS	NOTICE
and FRANCISCA	OF SALE
C. CHARFAUROS,	
Defendants.	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the Foreclosure Sale Order, dated June 10, 2010, issued by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Defendants Albert U. Charfauros and Francisco C. Charfauros' interests in Lot 001 G 151, located in Saipan, CNMI, will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, on terms and conditions set forth herein below.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The Sale will be held on Monday, September 20, 2010, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. at the Law Offices of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes, Second Floor, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. The property is described as Lot 001 G 151, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 G 04, the original of which was recorded 27 MAR 1986 as Document No. 86-511 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute the basis for any claim, adjustment, or rescission of the auction sale. Information concerning the property can be obtained by contacting Emma Fabre of the O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes at Tel. No. 234-5689.

Warranties and Covenants. The property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant express or implied for the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

A) **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: 1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; 2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before the property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and 3) to reject any or all bids for any reason.

B) **Bids.** Bids may be submitted in advance. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the office of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes. The bidder assumes all risk. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

C) **Payment.** The successful bidder shall pay the purchase price to the undersigned immediately after the sale is consummated.

D) **Change of Terms and Conditions.** The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

Dated this 12th of August, 2010.

/s/ Gregory J. Koebel
O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes,
Court-Appointed Auctioneer



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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT #06-2010

Opening date: August 26, 2010 Closing date: September 9, 2010

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancies:

Positions:	(1) Accountant-II (Saipan)	(1) Staff Engineer (Saipan)
	(1) Ports Police Trainee (Saipan)	(1) ARFF Trainee (Saipan)
	(1) Tinian Ports Manager	(1) General Maintenance-I (Port of Saipan)
	(1) Radio Operator/Weather Observer (Rota)	

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 26 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. The deadline for submission of applications is no later than **4:30 p.m., Thursday, September 9, 2010.**

Accountant-II: Any combination equivalent to graduation from high school (or G.E.D.) an AA accounting degree or related field from an accredited US college or university and no less than two (2) years of progressively responsible experience in accounting. Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction.

Staff Engineer: Possess minimum of four (4) year degree in civil engineering from an accredited U.S. university with no less than seven (7) years of progressive responsible experience in a professional engineering level of which three (3) years pertain to supervisory experience. Must be a registered Professional Engineer in the CNMI or any jurisdiction in the U.S.A. or ability to obtain registration in three (3) years from date of hire. Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction.

Ports Police Trainee: Graduation from high school (or G.E.D.). Strong desire to establish a career at the Commonwealth Ports Authority as a Ports Police officer and shall not be less than eighteen (18) year of age and not more than thirty-five (35) year of age upon hire pursuant to Age Discrimination in Employment Amendments of 1996. Experience is not necessary. Must be in accordance with recognized medical and physical fitness requirements. Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction.

ARFF Trainee: Graduation from high school or equivalent (G.E.D.), strong desire to establish a career as a fire fighter and shall be no less than eighteen (18) years of age and no more than thirty-five (35) years of age in accordance with the Age Discrimination in Employment Amendments of 1996. Experience is not necessary. Employee will be placed in one (1) year probationary status and must complete and pass all academic and hands-on training minimum requirements. National Fire Protection Association Standards #1003 regarding medical and health fitness requirements applies. Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction.

Tinian Ports Manager: Any combination equivalent to graduation from high school (or G.E.D.) and a four (4) year degree from an accredited US college or university with no less than seven (7) years of progressively responsible experience in a US international airport and seaport operations of which four (4) years pertain to supervisory experience. Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction.

General Maintenance-I (Port of Saipan): Any combination equivalent to graduation from high school (or G.E.D.) and a two (2) year degree or equivalent in certification in a related field from an accredited US college or trade school.

Radio Operator/Weather Observer (Rota): Graduation from high school (or G.E.D.). No record of felony or criminal conviction.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing, or may be downloaded by visiting CPA's website at www.cpa.gov.mp. For more information, please contact Ms. Addy C. Manahane by email at acmanahane@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

/s/ **EDWARD M. DELEON-GUERRERO**
Executive Director

CJPA invited to aid other territories in enforcing underage drinking law



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the CNMI Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Program Task Force pose for a photo after receiving the Office of Justice Programs National Success Story Award for 2010 during the 12th Annual EUDL Leadership Conference held in Anaheim, California on Aug. 18-20. From left, CJPA executive director Jerome Ierome, Kentucky EUDL coordinator and MC Sherry Bray, Youth Advisory Council chair Joe Limes, PIRE-UDETC director Johnnetta Davis-Joyce, CNMI EUDL coordinator Vincent Camacho, DPS EUDL program officer Nicolas Guerrero, CNMI Youth Evner Samuel, DPS EUDL program coordinator Joe Saurus, OJJDP deputy administrator Marilyn Roberts, Youth Advisory Council vice chair/JJ/EUDL Task Force chair Thomas J. Camacho, CGC EUDL Prevention coordinator Rebecca Robles, PIRE-UDETC Mary Gordon, and OJJDP EUDL Block Grant program manager Scott Pestridge.

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**

clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After being recognized for the success of the CNMI Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Program, the Criminal Justice Planning Agency has been asked to consider providing technical assistance to Guam, American Samoa, and other territories in implementing their own program.

"We're very happy and very excited," CJPA executive director Jerome Ierome told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday about the invitation from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation of Underage Drinking.

Ierome and other members of the task force that implemented the CNMI EUDL program returned Monday from attending the 12th Annual EUDL Leadership Conference in Anaheim, California last Aug. 18 to 20.

During the closing plenary session of the conference organized by the OJJDP, 11 members of the CNMI EUDL

Task Force were presented with the Office of Justice Programs National Success Story Award for 2010.

The CNMI EUDL Task Force is composed of the CJPA, the lead agency that administers the EUDL program, the Youth Advisory Council, Department of Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General, Division of Youth Services' Juvenile Probation Unit, Department of Commerce's Alcohol Beverage & Tobacco Control Division, Community Guidance Center, and the Public School System.

According to Ierome, they were "overwhelmed" to be recognized in front of about 1,800 conference participants from the U.S. and its territories.

"We're proud to represent the CNMI in a very unique way," he said, adding that the recognition is proof they are investing federal money in good programs such as EUDL.

Ierome also said they are "more than happy" to accept the invitation to help other territories in their EUDL program

but the task force would have to meet first to plan on how to go about providing this technical assistance.

FY2010 plans

Ierome said CJPA has already been notified of their funding for the EUDL program for FY2010, which amounts to \$356,400.

Together with other U.S. territories, the CNMI initially received the EUDL grant funding in 2008 from the U.S. Department of Justice to help curb the availability of alcohol to minors.

Through the funding, CJPA was able to implement the EUDL program by increasing community awareness and coordinating efforts in the enforcement of the law and the prosecution of violators.

Ierome said the task force will have its meeting toward the end of September to start planning for next year.

With the FY2010 funds, Ierome said they will solicit proposals from other agencies and community members who are willing to work with them to help promote the EUDL program.

Three burglars who stole bush cutter plead guilty

The last member of a group of three men that burglarized a house and stole a bush cutter pleaded guilty yesterday in the Superior Court.

Chupwei Toier Willy, 35, pleaded guilty to theft by unlawful taking as part of a plea bargain and was sentenced to one year in prison, all suspended except for three days, with credit for the three days he had already served in jail.

He immediately goes free but will be placed on one year of supervised probation and required to perform 100 hours of community service and write a letter of apology

to the victim.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Willy, Jerry Sam Jones, and Ander Ruben with theft by unlawful taking, theft by deception, and burglary.

All three signed plea agreements with the government. Except for Willy, who was given credit for time already served, all three were given the same terms and conditions of their sentences.

The three burglarized a building belonging to Antonio Urmeyang Pailug on May 11, 2009, and stole a bush butter. They sold it for \$75 to Villaroyal Pawnshop. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday, Uncle Jacky Wacky! You're the best! We hope that you'll enjoy your day today, with wishes for many more birthdays to come. God bless you! Greetings come from your *familia* in As Lito.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950



EQUEST FOR PROPOSAL DPW10-RFP-009

ROUTE 100 (a.k.a. Chalan San Francisco De Borja) ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, ROTA; CM-NH-0100 (003)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified Architectural/Engineering companies for the **Route 100 (a.k.a. Chalan San Francisco De Borja) Environmental Assessment Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)**.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is **not available** because its use is prohibited by the Federal Law granting the funding for this project. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with NMIAAC § 70-30.3-305 (Architect-Engineer Services) of the Procurement Regulations.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after **August 19, 2010** at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan. A **mandatory** Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building on **September 7, 2010**. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **September 21, 2010**.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored bases on the following criteria:

1. Company Background and Qualifications (5 pages maximum each company) – **25%**
2. Qualifications of Team or assigned personnel and organizational structure (5 pages combined maximum) – **30%**
3. Past Experience of team and/or assigned personnel on projects successfully completed of similar size and scope (10 pages combined maximum) – **25%**
4. Cost proposal – **20%**

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPW10-RFP-009"**. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **September 24, 2010**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **September 24, 2010** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **September 24, 2010** and must be received no later than **October 5, 2010**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. A contract shall be negotiated with the highest qualified firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price can not be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The successful firm will be subjected to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section **§ 70-30.3-245**.

This project is funded in whole by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the FHWA. All offerors shall be subjected to the provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulations Part 52, Subpart 209-5, Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Proposed Debarment, and Other Responsibility Matters, March 1996.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become property of the Government.

/s/ **MARTIN C. SABLAN**
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director of Procurement & Supply



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

3rd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK, Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL CUC-RFP-10-045

USED OIL REMOVAL, TANK CLEANING, AND INSPECTION at ROTA POWER PLANT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced firms for the "TANK CLEANING" - at its Rota Power Plant, in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All the work will be done as a part of the US EPA Stipulated Order No. 2 (SO2) response action and is subject to their approval. This project will be funded through the grant awarded by the US Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs:

- A. Project 1:**
1. Workplan Preparation;
 2. Used Oil Removal, Cleaning, and Inspection of Tank R2 (20,000 USG, each), used for used oil storage;
 3. Used Oil Removal, Cleaning and Inspection of tank R3 (5,000 USG), used for used oil storage;
 4. Removal of diesel, Cleaning, and Inspection of tank R1 (231,000 USG), used for diesel storage;
 5. Lube Oil Removal, Cleaning, and Inspection of tank R 4 (9,000USG), used for new lube oil storage;
 6. Removal of used oil in Drums

- B. Project 2:**
1. Workplan preparation;
 2. Repair R2, after cleaning
 3. Repair R3, after cleaning;
 4. Repair R4 after cleaning;
 5. Repair R1 after cleaning

RFP Deadlines and Highlights:

Proposal Submission - One (1) original and Six (6) hard copies along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-10-045 USED OIL REMOVAL AND TANK CLEANING at ROTA POWER PLANT"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room No.4, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220 Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 31, 2010 at 10:00 AM (CHST) local time**. Late submissions will not be considered.

The Scope-of-Work will be e-mailed upon request, to all interested Offerors, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays, **until August 26, 2010. A non-refundable payment of \$200 will be required for each set of Plans, Specification, and Proposal Forms.**

- A Pre-proposal Conference followed by a Site Visit will be held on **August 26, 2010 at 1200 PM** CUC ROTA Power Plant, ROTA.
- A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury. A performance and payment bond of hundred (100%) percent each of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety for proposal security. The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a U.S. Treasury listed company. No advance payment will be authorized on the project or an Irrevocable Letter of Credit (100% aggregate contract cost/CUC Beneficiary) or a payment bond. All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.
- The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page - <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.
- This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of Interior.

Submission of questions and clarifications must be submitted in writing via email no later than 10:00 AM (CHST) local time on **August 27, 2010** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Procurement and Supply Manager via email msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Support Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net; Mr. William Sword, Technical Manager for Oil, via email sword.william@gmail.com and Mr. Venugopal Prabhakara, Project Manager, Power generation, via email venu@cucgov.net. **CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective Offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.**

/s/ **ABE UTU MALAE**
Assistant Executive Director for Operation

/s/ **ANTONIO S. MUNA**
Executive Director

Senate to have no substitute budget bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) said yesterday that the panel will not introduce a substitute budget bill, but will only propose amendments to the one that the House of Representatives passed on Aug. 18.

"We will not go back to square one. The committee will not be introducing a substitute bill but we will be proposing changes to it," Taimanao said in an interview yesterday.

She and three other members of the committee met for a working session on the \$132 million budget bill for fiscal year 2011.

One of the changes the committee is looking at is the House proposal to increase the current discretionary funding of \$86,796 to \$130,000.

She said the committee will not increase each lawmaker's annual discretionary funding to \$130,000, but may peg it at only \$95,000. She said the figure is not final yet.

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota),

also a member of the committee, said there may be minor amendments to the allocations of some agencies, including those in education, public health and public safety.

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), also a committee member, said he will not support any proposal to give lawmakers more budget when most government employees will receive up to 25 percent cut in their salaries.

Taimanao said the committee will be ready with its report on the budget bill in time for the

next Senate session, tentatively set for Tuesday, Aug. 31.

Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota) set a self-imposed deadline of two weeks for the Senate to act on the budget.

Senators said because of the amendments they are proposing, a Senate and House conference committee is likely to be called.

Time is ticking for the Legislature to pass a budget before the start of FY 2011 on Oct. 1, or the government will shut down as a result of a constitutional amendment last year.

Solomon Islands' PM elected, country quiet

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (AP)—Veteran politician Danny Philip was elected Solomon Islands' new prime minister Wednesday as security forces patrolled streets in the capital to prevent a repeat of violence that engulfed the city the last time a leader was chosen.

The nation's 50 lawmakers had been negotiating intensely over the past two weeks to determine who would form a coalition government and Philip, head of the Reform Democratic Party, ultimately beat rival candidate Steve Abana by 26 votes to 23 with one spoiled ballot.

Philip, 57, is expected to announce his new cabinet within days.

"My government is determined for a common purpose for peace and prosperity," he said, adding that "violence that has marred the country should now be water under the bridge."

A strong police and army presence maintained calm in the capital, Honiara, where in 2006 thousands rioted. At the time, voters outraged by the election of new premier Snyder Rini torched the Chinatown area of the city, burned down scores of Chinese-owned businesses and

forced thousands of ethnic Chinese Solomon Islands citizens to flee the country.

Ahead of Wednesday's vote, police also imposed a ban on the sale and consumption of alcohol.

The Aug. 4 elections for the nation's 50-seat Parliament were hailed as generally peaceful although there were minor riots, looting and burning of a ballot box in one province.

Troops from the Australian-led Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands also were on full alert.

The 2003 deployment of RAMSI to the Pacific island

nation restored law and order after years of ethnic tension and fighting in which at least 200 died and 20,000 were displaced.

Philip said he will not be asking the mission to leave the country—a policy announced by some lawmakers.

"I have no intention to remove RAMSI, but there needs to be changes to the mission to make it more meaningful to Solomon Islands," he said.

The nation of 600,000 people is scattered across 992 small islands in the central Pacific. Solomon Islanders mostly live on subsistence agriculture and fishing.



MHS CHAMORRO CLUB

MHS Chamorro Club members, their students and Joeten-Kiyu Public Library staff pose for a group photo after their performance Friday afternoon during the culmination activity of the Summer Reading Program at the library.

CLARISSA DAVID

Judge wants expedited arguments in Tim's motion

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court wants briefing and oral arguments to be expedited in former lieutenant governor Timothy P. Villagomez's motion to reconsider the court's earlier decision to deny his bid to settle the record in the case.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Mark W. Bennett said an expeditious hearing would avoid further delays to the pending appeal in the case.

Bennett gave the U.S. government until Friday, Aug. 27, 2010, to respond to Villagomez's motion for reconsideration.

The judge said Villagomez and his co-defendants, Joaquina

V. Santos and James A. Santos, shall have until Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2010, to file any reply.

Bennett set the telephonic arguments on the motion for Sept. 3, 2010, at 8am (Saipan time).

Villagomez and the Santos couple are currently serving their sentences in federal prison for their participation in the Rydlyme corruption scandal.

Attorney Dennis P. Riordan, on behalf of Villagomez and the Santos couple, asserted in their motion for reconsideration that the court has misperceived the nature and scope of its authority under Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure.

Riordan said Bennett issued his order before his clients were able to file their reply

memorandum.

"In part, as a result, this court may have failed to reconsider significant authority that undermined the government's arguments which this court largely adopted in its order," Riordan said.

Villagomez and the Santos couple, in their motion to settle record, asked the court to permit further briefing and hold further proceedings to determine what truly occurred in the district court, in so far as the question of public exclusion from the jury selection is concerned.

In the U.S. government's opposition, the U.S. Attorney's Office argued that the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure does not allow the relief being

sought, because the defendants seek to build a new record and rewrite what happened in the trial court—not resolve differences in the existing record.

In denying the motion to settle record, Bennett said the defendants and their trial counsel knew or should have known of total exclusion of the public occurred during jury selection on March 30, 2009.

Bennett pointed out that the record shows that during jury selection, the defense counsel objected to the court's refusal to release for use by the general public seats reserved for visiting students but never asserted that all members of the public were excluded from jury selection at the trial judge's direction.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 26, 1999

DPH needs \$3M for medical referral

With a month to go before the current fiscal year ends, the Department of Public Health will need additional \$3 million to provide assistance to residents under its medical referral program. DPH Sec. Joseph Kevin Villagomez attributed the shortfall to drastic 50 percent cut in the amount appropriated by the government in FY 1999 as well as to the costly medical expenses incurred by patients who have been referred to off-island hospitals. "Actually we will be in a hole more but the Legislature gave me the flexibility to use some of those accounts," he told reporters. "So it's been good, but right now we just have a lot of very sick people and we can't (help them) no matter what system you put in place."

MVA defends tour agents

The Marianas Visitors Authority has expressed concern over a resolution passed by the House of Representatives accusing the Japan Saipan Travel Association of excluding locally-owned business establishments from their list of places to visit. MVA Managing Director Perry Tenorio said it would be difficult to force JSTA or any other travel agency to patronize a certain business entity because such move goes against the principle of free enterprise. While he understands the concerns of the Legislature, JSTA or any ground tour operator cannot force tourists to visit every store on the island, said Dave M. Sablan, MVA board chairman.

Aug. 26, 2002

OIA asked for tech support

Gov. Juan N. Babauta has asked the Office of Insular Affairs for technical assistance to enable not just the CNMI but all insular territories to more effectively tap available federal grants. In a letter to OIA Deputy Assistant Secretary David B. Cohen, Babauta asked the OIA to provide the insular governments with the technical assistance that will lead to more effective ways in which the insular areas can readily have knowledge of the vast amounts of grants available in the federal government. This includes the process of accessing these grants and the most effective way of tapping into these monies.

Agent Starling of the ÉCBI?

The Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law will hold a public hearing today on Tinian regarding the bill that would establish a Commonwealth Bureau of Investigation within the office of the Attorney General. The public hearing, which will be at 10am at the Tinian Court House, follows in the wake of a similar hearing on Rota last Thursday at the Northern Marianas College-Rota campus. The Saipan leg of this public hearing will be held tomorrow, Aug. 27, at 10am, at the Senate chamber itself. The measure arose after recognizing that, while most states have established an investigative arm within their Attorney General offices, the statute creating the CNMI Attorney General did not expressly establish an investigation unit.

Aug. 26, 2003

Counsel: Atalig to appeal conviction today

Sen. Ricardo Atalig intends to appeal his federal conviction on wire fraud charges before the U.S. Court of Appeals Ninth Circuit today, his lawyer disclosed yesterday. But Stephen Woodruff, Atalig's counsel, said the senator would surrender to the U.S. Marshal's Office by Thursday pursuant to an order by U.S. District Court Chief Judge Alex R. Munson, unless the court order is modified. Woodruff also divulged that he would file appropriate legal pleadings to have the August 28 surrender deadline changed, but he refused to describe what specific request he would ask the court for.

Guerrero may allow Bennett's group to use PSS confab room

Board of Education chairman Herman T. Guerrero says he is likely to grant teacher Ambrose Bennett's request to use the board's conference room for his group's organizational meeting. "I will most likely allow them but the other group will have to be given the same opportunity also," said Guerrero, referring to the Association of Commonwealth Teachers. He said the Public School System's legal counsel is preparing a response letter to Bennett. "It will also be furnished to ACT," Bennett, in an Aug. 14 letter to Guerrero, said that the newly formed Teacher Rep. Committee, which, he claimed, represents an overwhelming majority of PSS teachers, will need the conference room and its videoconference equipment, on Sept. 4, "to meet with all school level Teacher Reps."

NAT'L CRACKDOWN ON DRUNK DRIVING

12 sobriety checkpoints scheduled this weekend

In line with the Labor Day weekend's National Enforcement Crackdown from Aug. 20 through Sept. 6, 2010, the Department of Public Safety will be conducting 12 sobriety checkpoints this weekend on Saipan. The checkpoints

Man in credit card fraud to be deported

Sheng-Hsuan Lin, 33, was sentenced Tuesday, in the District Court of Guam for credit card fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code § 1029(a), according to a statement issued yesterday by Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Lin was sentenced to time already served, which is 128 days, deportation, and two years supervised release.

The charges stem from an Information charging Lin with knowingly and with intent to defraud, using counterfeit ATM cards, obtaining items and cash valued between \$1,000 and \$3,200.

This case was handled by assistant U.S. Attorney Fred Black and investigated by special agents from the U.S. Secret Service. (PR)

are scheduled on Aug. 27, 28, and 29—from Friday through Sunday.

On Aug. 27-28, the first two sobriety checkpoints will be conducted on Chalan Pale Arnold in Gualo Rai. One will be on the outer southbound lane in front of the Coastal Resources Management building and the other on the northbound outer lane in front of the Safety 1st Systems building. Both checkpoints will simultaneously start at 9pm and will be terminated at 10:15pm.

The other two sobriety checkpoints will be conducted on Beach Road Susupe. One will

be on the outer southbound lane in front of Ada's Gymnasium and the other on the northbound outer lane in front of the Multi-Purpose building. Both checkpoints will simultaneously start at 1:30am and will end at 2:45am.

On Aug. 28-29, the first two sobriety checkpoints will be conducted on Beach Road Chalan Laulau, both in front of the late Dr. Kaipat's residence. One will be on the outer southbound lane and the other on the northbound outer lane. Both checkpoints will simultaneously start at 10pm and end at 11:15pm.

The other two sobriety check-

points will be conducted on Chalan Pale Arnold, Garapan. One will be on the outer southbound lane in front of the CNMI Museum and the other on the northbound outer lane in front of the Han's Tire Shop. Both checkpoints will simultaneously start at 1:15am and will be terminated at 2:30am.

On Aug. 29, the first two sobriety checkpoints will be conducted on Beach Road Garapan. One will be on the outer southbound lane in front of the Fishing Base and the other on the northbound outer lane in front of Bank Pacific. Both checkpoints will simultaneously start

at 3pm and end at 4:15pm.

The other two sobriety checkpoints will be conducted on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero road in front of the CUC Waterloo along the westbound lane. The other checkpoint will be on Beach Road San Jose in front of the Morgen's building on the southbound outer lane. Both checkpoints will start at 5:30pm and end at 6:45pm.

Each checkpoint conducted will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour 15 minutes) at each location.

In addition, police officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrol, aggressive driver in-

terdictions, and laser activities.

This activity is part of the Department of Public Safety's efforts to ensure that all operators abide the law.

Statistical data and information compiled by DPS has shown that from November 2009 to Aug. 17, 2010, there were a total of 77 arrests for DUI offenses.

Of the 77, majority of arrests were made at the following locations: Beach Road Susupe, 14 arrests; Beach Road Garapan, eight; 2W Puerto Rico, five; and Beach Road San Jose, four. All other areas reflected one or two arrests making the total of 77. (DPS)



Volunteers plant at Laolao Bay to reduce soil loss

Fifteen volunteers from three groups, along with staff from the Division of Environmental Quality and Coastal Resources

Management Office, spent Saturday morning planting 90 plants within the Laolao Revegetation Project site.

Volunteers, along with staff from the Division of Environmental Quality and Coastal Resources Management Office, pose for a group picture during the tree planting at the Laolao Revegetation Project site Saturday morning. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Volunteer Planting Day was part of a continuing restoration effort, started in 2005, to help reduce soil erosion, which causes sediment—small soil particles—to wash into Laolao Bay and damage the coral reefs.

The Laolao Revegetation Project aims to plant over 1,000 saplings and 2,500 linear feet of Vetiver grass throughout the upland revegetation planting area. This volunteer tree planting was a way to show the community how important these projects are for Saipan.

Nick Swaim, DEQ field coordinator, demonstrated proper planting techniques and fertilizer placements. Six native plant species were used, including Daok, Banalo, Nonak, Nanasu, Kafu, and Pago. These plants were propagated by DLNR Forestry at their nursery in Kagman.

Volunteers from the community were made up of members from Teen Talk, NMC's Phi Theta Kappa, and NMC's Environmental Natural Resources Organization. All volunteers were involved in carrying plants

and tools as they hiked up to the planting site. Along the way they passed rows of Vetiver grass propagated at CREES Agriculture, and planted by Tropical Gardens Landscapers. The planting was spread across two of the 16 sites in the project area. Fortunately, the volunteers were able to plant in the sites that boast the best view of the bay.

Volunteer Lorremel Hocog said, "It was a fun exercise, and I'm doing it for a good cause. So it's worth every effort, and the view is amazing." (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Youth center opens in Kagman

The Kagman Komunitat Association has opened up a youth center at the Kagman Community Center. There are two pool tables and a pingpong table. There is also free Wi-Fi available. The youth center hours is 3pm-9pm on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

KKA has worked long and hard to try to put this together. Now the youth of Kagman have more things to do. They can play games or use the free Wi-Fi for research or homework.

For more information, contact Greg DL Guerrero at 285-4007. (PR)

Arts council sets luncheon fundraiser

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture will be hosting a luncheon fundraiser so it could bring 30 CNMI artists to Guam for the Micronesian Fair on Oct. 14-17, 2010.

The fundraiser will be held on Aug. 27, 2010, at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan's Azucena Rooms I and II, from 11:30am to 2pm. The price is \$20 per head.

For more information, call the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture at (670) 322-9982/83, fax at (670)322-9028, or email parkeryobei@gmail.com. (PR)

Calling all CNMI artists

Registration is now open (first-come, first-served basis) for the first 30 visual and traditional CNMI artists who wish to participate in the Guam Micronesian Fair, which will be held at the Ypao beach in Guam on Oct. 15-17, 2010.

Participants must be CNMI registered artists under the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture.

For more information, call the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture at (670) 322-9982/83, fax at (670)322-9028, or email

parkeryobei@gmail.com. (PR)

Registration for Pacifika Arts Exhibit

Registration is ongoing for those who wish to participate in the Cultural Heritage and Pacifika Arts Exhibit at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library, set from Sept. 1, 2010, to Oct. 1, 2010. This exhibit is open to all artists and art collectors who want to display or sell their arts and crafts.

This exhibit is also dedicated to the late Dr. Mau Pius Pailug, the great traditional navigator, Archives, articles, and DVD shows about Dr. Pailug will be featured during this monthlong exhibit.

Deadline to register is Aug. 27, 2010.

For more information, call the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture at (670) 322-9982/83, fax at (670)322-9028, or email parkeryobei@gmail.com. (PR)

Class schedule distribution at MHS

This is to inform all parents and guardians, students, and the MHS community that Marianas High School will distribute all class schedules on the first day of classes on Sept. 7 during homeroom period. Student homeroom listing will be posted around the campus and main office by last names. Homeroom starts at 8am and school ends at 3pm. Other school procedures and requirements will be shared during homeroom orientation.

If you child attended Hopwood Jr. High School, all registrations completed and submitted are already entered for MHS enrollment. Any updates with student information must be submitted to our registrar's office. Please make sure your child has a blue health card, health insurance, and indicate any health problems that need school attention. Visit the school for new registration or new enrollment requirements. (PR)



GUAM TRIP

Northern Marianas College Educational Talent Search program staff and high school students pose for a group photo with University of Guam president Dr. Robert Underwood during the ETS 2010 Guam Summer Bridge Program on Aug. 3, 2010. During the recent trip to Guam, the ETS staff and students visited UoG, Guam Community College and other Guam government offices. The purpose of the trip was to prepare the students for college, and to ensure their continuing success throughout high school and college. ETS is a federally funded program designed to provide educational guidance and support to middle school and high school students.

NMC

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Iran's barbaric side

Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani may not have long to live. International outrage over Iran's plan to stone to death the 43-year-old mother of two appears to have dissuaded it from going forward with that particular barbarity. But Ashtiani is not free. Her case is now under review by Iran's Supreme Court, and a final verdict could come as soon as next week. A state-run television news program, however, announced that she would not be executed during the month of Ramadan, which ends Sept. 9, and that instead of being stoned, she is to hang.

Exactly why is Ashtiani to die? At first, the judiciary announced that she would be executed for committing adultery. Then, caught off-guard by the international response, the government put her on television and implied that she was also involved in her husband's killing. But if Iran hoped the broadcast of Ashtiani giving a "confession" would sway world opinion, it was mistaken. Rather, the blurry telecast, in which her face was obscured and her words dubbed from her native Azeri into Persian, only emphasized her powerlessness. It reminded the world that Ashtiani is the victim of a regime that oppresses women, violates international accords regarding the treatment of prisoners and is cavalier in its disregard of human rights.

In 2006, Ashtiani was accused of involvement in her husband's slaying. She was acquitted on that charge but sentenced to 10 years in prison because the killing "disturbed the public order." A separate court then charged her with adultery. But on what grounds was she convicted? Ashtiani maintains that she was coerced into confessing. In addition, Iran's penal code permits judges to determine guilt based on their own "knowledge" if there is an absence of evidence. Three of the five judges deciding her case condemned her to death on that basis. Meanwhile, the man convicted of killing her husband is free after paying "blood money" to the dead man's family.

Even if Ashtiani is allowed to live—or sent into exile in Brazil, which has said it would welcome her as a gesture of friendship with Iran—that will only give Iran a temporary reprieve. Until it ends the practice of stoning and insists on equal justice for women and men, international censure will surely reoccur. In that, Iran has inadvertently achieved something worthy: By persecuting Ashtiani, it has exposed its own barbarism, indicted its own judicial system and isolated itself from all civilized nations.

(c) 2010, Los Angeles Times



Exempli gratia, Ryan Ortizo @ NYU

The news that 60 percent of PSS high school graduates are heading for a tertiary-level education this year is heartening. Add the 23 percent who opted for enlistment in the U.S. Armed Forces with its "educational" consequences while in service and official benefits in school scholarships afterwards, and it reveals a high percentage of HS graduates getting into formal education.

To watch thespian Ryan perform, and listen to elocutionist Ryan orate MLK Jr.'s *I Have a Dream* speech, leaves no doubt that one is before a native and disciplined talent. I last saw Ryan this summer at an insurance office with his dad, presumably arranging for some kind of insurance while in the Big Apple. Ryan, a Mt. Carmel alum, is attending New York University. He hopes to graduate from both medical and law schools.

As a foreign student on scholarship in the '60s, I worked at the college library and the cafeteria. There was a student determined to get law, theology, and business administration degrees all at the same time. I watched him read three books simultaneously at the library. He came to lunch daily, his self-allotted one meal each day. He'd invariably nick himself shaving in the morning, and his social graces were, to be charitable, minimal. But he got his degrees.

Ryan is not an eccentric nor a recluse; he's more like your jack-of-all-trades all-around guy, only more a pursuer of excellence at each endeavor he engages in. He's too young to be eulogized and it is not our intent to heap another layer of accolade to the mound around his healthy ego. We are just out to affirm that Ryan has chosen well. NYU has a network of global centers around the world, in addition to being at Manhattan's heart, sitting south of the Empire State building and north of Manhattan's Chinatown, Little Italy, Battery Park, Ground Zero of the World Trade Center, and NYC's famed financial district.

With less fervor but just as much talent and determination, the rest of Ryan's CNMI class of 2010 would have joined other frosh/freshies this August in numerous orientation sessions on campuses in the Pacific and in the continental United States. My send-out words to Ryan was, "Think with your heart!" We add: "Dance what your body wants!" The same goes to all entering tertiary education this year.

More importantly, we need to heed the need of those who think they are less human for failing to make it this far schooling-wise. The crisis in education is a breakdown that has become necessary. Our schools from kindergarten to post-graduate schools have evolved into skills laboratories where people are trained to fit into corporate jobs.

Rare is a Joseph Campbell who would advise students to "follow your bliss." Although YouTube is replete with commencement exercise clips of the Steve Jobs' variety, and teacher Ken Robinson's

By **JAIME VERGARA**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the
Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section



inspiring take on creativity on TED is worth the watch, our consumer world still measures education in terms of material productivity, delivery of services, and the profitable marketing of both. We still think education is about sitting down in a classroom!

Our schools mass-produce peons to be fed into our corporate systems and structures, globalized industries standard-sized to fit all and, God help us, the requirements of the military-industrial complexes efficiently rule a programmed world perpetually at war.

Our hope for the Ryan Ortizos of this world is Marianas Trench deep. Flung into the sophisticated vortex of a global NYU from the simple elegance of western Pacific local island ways, we trust that Ryan not be gobbled up by the enormity and complexity of the wonder-filled urban, secular, and scientific world, but discover the human gifts that an NYU in NYC brings, while at the same time, receive himself to be unadulterated freedom, affirmed as a unique, unrepeatable gift of humanness into history, in whose creativity and freedom lies the fate and destiny of the human race.

Indeed, while we all need to be trained in the discipline of making a living, within and without the walls of formal education, we need to excel in adding our own unique styles in the art of living a life! This holds true for the trade institute as it is for our community college. The "what" of our economics must be paid attention to, inventoried and managed to the minutest of details—resources, production and distribution; the "how" of our politics must be invitational of everyone so that participation in the process of decision-making is no longer a prerogative of the few, but the taken-for-granted-ness of all—order, justice and welfare; but the "why" of our communal life must now give cadence to the heartbeat of our emerging planetary culture—its comprehensive wisdom, its intentional style and its profound symbols.

It finally does not matter whether Ryan Ortizo returns to head our new hospital, or be lead prosecutor at the AGs, or manage Joeten department store, or just run a mom-and-pop convenient store. We will even have him back as a teacher! We just want Ryan to be a self-conscious human being who wills freely and well, and is tranquil with whatever decision he makes. That holds true to all of Class 2010—all 100 percent of them! Want a full curriculum writeup on that?

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Goat rope

When we were going to check our mail in San Vicente, a road construction worker held up a sign that said “SLOW.” I turned to Janel and said, “They don’t have to advertise how slow they are working.” The two-mile stretch of “road repair” in San Vicente has been going on for almost eight months now and it seems to be getting messier by the day.

Just for fun, bring some chairs and your favorite beverage and sit in the middle of the dirt triangle across from the Tudela Retail Store when the traffic is busy. There are no signs or people directing traffic, and if you’ve got a sadistic sense of humor, you’ll be entertained as you watch how all the frustrated drivers try to squeeze their way through constricted, one-vehicle spaces that were previously two-lane roads.

One would think the intent of the project is to improve the road condition and make traffic move more efficiently, but it’s turning into the CNMI’s biggest “goat rope.” What’s amazing, though, is that it seems to work OK for the drivers because I haven’t seen any accidents or road rage issues. It’s proof that drivers in the CNMI are flexible and can deal with difficult situations.

“Goat rope” is American slang for a confusing, messy, or disorganized situation. Its origin comes from how new cowboys were taught the art of roping a moving target, such as a horse or cow. When I worked on my uncle’s farm as a 12-year-old in Holbrook, Idaho, I practiced roping a stationary sawhorse. Trying to rope a moving target exponentially increases the difficulty, and when those moving targets are much larger than you, it also increases the likelihood of getting trampled, dragged, or maimed. So the young cowboys would be put in a corral full of goats, which are smaller and less dangerous. The old timers would gather around the corral with their drinks and whoop and holler as they watched the amusing melee of goats, ropes, and cowboys.

The road construction work is a fitting metaphor for the gen-

eral mess we’re in. The longer we deal with it, the worse it seems to get. The words “slow,” “confusing,” “messy,” “disorganized,” and “frustrating” are words that would fit aptly in a sentence describing your typical interaction with many of the organizations in the CNMI.

Amazingly, there have not been many serious altercations between the organizations and “customers” who are less than satisfied with the service they’re getting. It’s proof that the people in the CNMI are resilient and flexible when they experience inept, incompetent, or inconvenient service. But do we have to put up with it, or is there a solution?

Although it may be entertaining to watch young cowboys hone their skills on panicked goats, the eventual outcome is that the cowboys will improve their ability and become seasoned ropers. In order for effective change to occur, the leader, manager, or a results-oriented person within an organization must be committed to make improvements. Here are 10 steps that can turn a goat rope into a professional operation.

1. **Recognize when something is wrong** and realize that customers are not pleased.
2. **Identify the specific problem** areas that need to change. These might be obvious, but it is still good to talk to customers formally or informally to get their feedback and learn if there are unrecognized areas of difficulty.
3. Now it’s time to **find solutions** that will address the problems. This can come from brainstorming with staff, talking to customers, or doing some research to discover how others have solved similar problems.
4. List the alternatives and **prioritize the solutions** so you can choose the best one to resolve the problem. Also, identify the expected outcome for the solution so you know what success will look like.
5. **Identify the resources** needed to implement the solution. Also, create a timeline for the project to be completed.
6. **Take action and hold a person responsible** to act on the so-

By **RIK VILLEGAS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Rik is a writer, marketing consultant and business instructor at Northern Marianas College. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at <http://rikv.blogspot.com>.

lution. It’s fine to have a group implement the solution, but if the group is collectively made responsible, it will be too easy for members of the group to dissipate the responsibility, which means that no one will feel accountable.

7. Periodically **monitor the project** to ensure that it is being completed on time and within budget. Create some type of dashboard that reports the most vital results of the project so discrepancies can be quickly identified.

8. **Communicate progress** to interested parties so they know what is happening. Lack of communication creates anxiety and misunderstanding.

9. When you’ve achieved your desired result, **celebrate the accomplishment** and recognize those who helped.

10. The last step is to **systemize the process** so that you won’t slide back into the normal pattern of behavior and find yourself “re-inventing the wheel” at some point in the future. If needed, create standard operating procedures that are documented and regularly followed. Organizations with high turnover experience lapses in progress as new people are unaware of any progress that may have been made, and they tend to repeat what has already been done.

If your organization is experiencing the “goat rope” syndrome, then take the goat by the horns and implement these 10 steps before someone holds up a “SLOW” sign where you work.

\$8.3 million for education just when we need it

Editor’s Note: U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan submitted the following letter, discussing an additional \$8.3 million the Public School System will be receiving from the U.S. Congress and the importance of maintaining the quality level of our local schools, even in these tough economic times.

Earlier this month, Congress met in a rare recess session to approve emergency education funding. \$8.3 million will go to save teacher jobs right here in the Northern Mariana Islands. William S. Reyes, Garapan, Dandan and Tanapag elementary schools and schools throughout the system will benefit from these much-needed funds.

I was one of 21 original co-sponsors of the Local Jobs for America Act that led to the Education Jobs and Medicaid Assistance Act and this \$8.3 million in emergency aid. As your representative in Congress and member of the House Committee on Education and Labor, I have been a constant supporter of efforts to preserve the quality of education we provide our students and protect our schools even in these tough economic times.

I do understand that it can be difficult to budget money for schools when there are other important needs in our nation and here

at home. But young people are only in school for a few years, and those years are critical to their educational and social growth. This is when they learn to read and write and compute. They learn to work in cooperation with others. These skills prepare them to attain future academic and professional success. To reduce the resources available to our children during these formative years, even temporarily, is to shortchange them for life.

So, I am glad that we were able to get another \$8.3 million for education to save teacher jobs here in the Commonwealth and give our children the education they deserve. The U.S. Department of Education has already posted the application forms for the money online, set a deadline for applications of September 7, and committed to getting funds disbursed within two weeks of receiving complete applications, so our schools get help now, when they need it.

The money does come with conditions. It may only be used for the salaries and benefits of those who teach our students and run our elementary, middle, and high schools—teachers, nurses, librarians, cafeteria workers, counselors, and principals. Only two percent of the money may go for administration.

And we must comply with maintenance of effort requirements.

By **GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan is the delegate of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to the U.S. Congress.

The Legislature must maintain the same level of local funding for education from one year to the next, whether in terms of dollars or as a percentage of total expenditures — or we lose the federal funds.

The emergency \$8.3 million from the Education Jobs and Medicaid Assistance Act is by no means a solution to the financial problems that face our Commonwealth government. But it helps ensure that our students do not suffer lasting harm because of a temporary economic situation. I am extremely pleased by the passage of this legislation—and its signature by President Obama—and I look forward to seeing our children benefit from having a good education.

Do or die for Tinian, Rota senators

I used the term *do or die* figuratively because I’m sure there are a lot of people, myself included, who want to know what you senators are going to do with the casino bill. Most voters expect you to vote the bill down easily, given the casino efforts on your islands that would be severely hampered by casinos on Saipan. Surely, if any senator approves the Saipan casino bill, they will have signed their political epitaph for going against their islands’ and their constituents’ wishes. Most educated voters are already aware that the main reason our economy is not rebounding is because our leaders on the Hill don’t want us to have any options other than casinos.

In the past five years there hasn’t been anything of substance done on the Hill to turn our economy around, which has set us up for the casinos to be shoved down our throats and we will be willing to let them do it. When you are thirsty enough, you will drink almost anything and this same phenomenon is now working on our thirst for economic prosperity. The sad part is that voters actually voted for us to be in this poor economic state of existence by continuing to elect the wrong people and now people are being played again. How can anyone with common sense believe that a casino is our *only* economic salvation? You would indeed have to be uneducated and living in the Dark Ages to think only a casino can help us. Voters had better find out

quick fast about the qualifications of these people telling us a casino is our only salvation because they *are not* qualified to make that statement and they don’t have any scientific proof to offer in any form. We are living in the age of science and exploration, not hunches and ideas created in backrooms and over beers at a picnic table.

The future of the CNMI is in the wrong hands and we can only do what we can to keep them from making things worse until we can elect some more people; it is really just that simple. I’m sure the people of Rota and Tinian expect their senators to vote the bill down and hopefully that will be the end and they will finally start thinking about doing something else. They say the Senate is where wisdom in government usually shows up the most and I pray that is true this time around. I hope the senators have the wisdom to realize they will literally be gambling with their islands’ fate and their political careers if they take the 25 percent bait and approve the bill. The Tinian and Rota senators need to hurry up and kill this bill for their own political salvation and for the salvation of the entire CNMI so we can hopefully move on to something bigger and better to save our economy.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

What pay raise?

Where did it come from? The money that self-interest driven “protesters” want for themselves at NMC?

Those funds that some claim are a “raise” in the pay of legislators is nothing of the kind. Those funds were already part of the Legislative Branch’s budget and were being controlled by just one person. Now, thanks to this legislation, those funds have been split up among the 20 separate lawmakers’ discretionary budgets so as to better fund local neighborhood projects for the betterment of our people.

So, instead of increasing the salaries of a few over at NMC as the “protesters” want, these funds will be paying for school bus stops for our kids and for roadside mowing in our villages and other worthwhile projects requested by our citizens in every one of the precincts.






The legislators know where this money comes from. Taxpayers work hard to produce these funds and it is our job to see that it goes to benefit the most number possible. The majority of this money will be out there doing just what taxpayers want it to do: improving our neighborhoods and helping our constituents families, one-by-one.

Rep. Stanley McGinnis Torres
17th CNMI Legislature

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

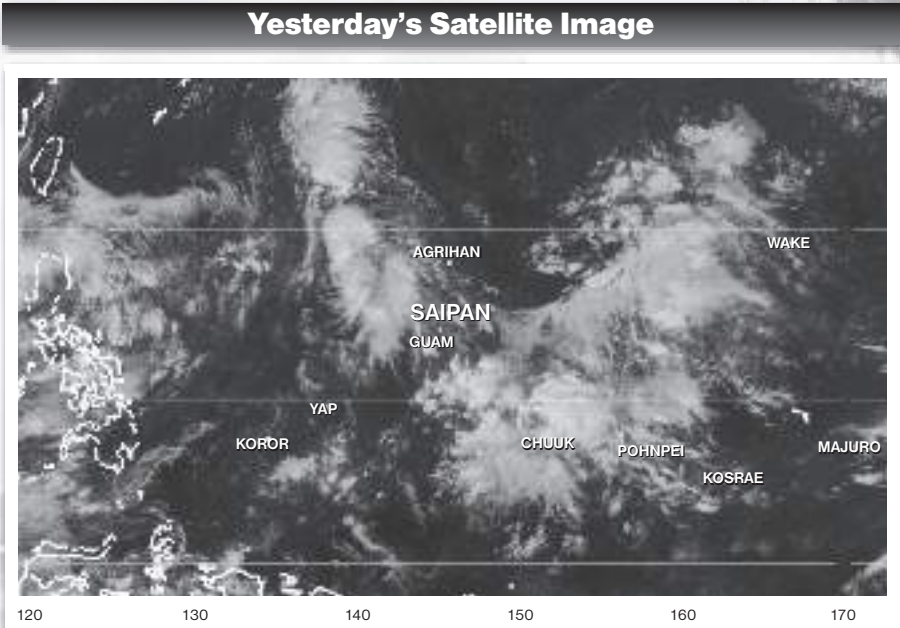
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲85° ▼77°	▲85° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°

Micronesia			
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Palau	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼77
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲89	▼78
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼78

Around The Globe			
Auckland	Showers	▲60	▼54
Beijing	Sunny	▲87	▼68
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲86	▼81
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼75
London	Rain	▲65	▼57
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲93	▼68
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89	▼79
Melbourne	Showers	▲57	▼46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91	▼80
New York	Showers	▲76	▼66
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲94	▼81
Paris	Thundershowers	▲78	▼60
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲85	▼76
Rome	Sunny	▲92	▼70
Salem	Sunny	▲92	▼57
San Francisco	Sunny	▲77	▼59
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼76
Tokyo	Sunny	▲90	▼78
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼70

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
2:43 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
8:08 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
2:51 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
9:00 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak monsoon trough curves southwestward across the Philippine Sea from 21N142E to beyond 15N at 130E. A broad circulation is found along the trough centered at 13N131E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found north-west of the CNMI between 15N and 23N from 139E to 143E and farther west within 90 miles of a line from 15N130E to 17N136E. Trade-wind convergence is combining with upper-level divergence near an upper low centered west of Wake Island near 20N155E to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of Saipan between 13N and 17N from 146E to 151E and within 100 miles of a line from 15N153E to 19N161E to 24N165E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers near Yap and Palau within 100 miles of a line from 5N134E to 10N138E. A surface trough between Chuuk and Pohnpei stretches southwestward from 13N160E to 4N153E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found east of Chuuk and north and west of Pohnpei within 120 miles of the trough axis.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:04 AM	6:34 PM	Today	7:19 PM	6:57 AM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:33 PM	Friday	7:54 PM	7:43 AM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:33 PM	Saturday	8:30 PM	8:30 AM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM	Sunday	9:08 PM	9:18 AM
Monday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM	Monday	9:49 PM	10:08 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 16, 2010											
DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS					
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM						GUAM-ROTA (ROP)					
C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5			C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7		
SAIPAN-GUAM						GUAM-SAIPAN					
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily			C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily		
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily			C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily		
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7			C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily		
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily			C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7		
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily			C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily		
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily			C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily		
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN					
DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily			DL290	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily		
DL297	3:20pm	5:55pm	Daily			DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily		
DL289	4:35pm	7:10pm	Daily			DL288	8:40pm	1:10am+1	Daily		
SAIPAN-NAGOYA						NAGOYA-SAIPAN					
DL640	7:40am	10:20am	Daily			DL641	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily		
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)						OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN					
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily			OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily		
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN					
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5			OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7		
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN					
OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1			OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7		
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX		
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX			OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7		
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7			OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN					
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6			FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5		
SAIPAN-BEIJING						BEIJING-SAIPAN					
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5			CA987	6:40pm	1:55am +1	4, 7		
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN					
OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN			OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7		
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN						via ICN		
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM			DL630/641	6:30am	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7		
DL287/173	6:00am	10:10pm	Daily via NRT						via NGO		
DL640/629	7:40am	10:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO			DL172/288	7:40am	1:10am+1	Daily via NRT		
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM			C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM		
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau			OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
C09599/PR111	9:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM			OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
						PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM		
						C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3.5 via GUM-Palau		
						C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM		
SAIPAN-HONG KONG						HONG KONG-SAIPAN					
OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN			OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7		
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN						via ICN		
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM			OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
						OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
						C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM		
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)											

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE													
Airline				ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline				ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota						FRE 113		11:40		11:50		Daily	
FRE 100		7:30		8:00		Daily		FRE 115		13:00		13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan						FRE 117		14:30		14:40		Daily	
FRE 100		8:20		8:50		Daily		FRE 119		16:00		16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota						FRE 121		16:40		16:50		Daily	
FRE 300		17:00		17:30		Daily		FRE 123		17:40		17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan		17:50		18:20		Daily		FRE 125		18:30		18:40	Daily
Saipan-Rota						Tinian-Saipan							
FRE 200		9:30		10:00		Daily		FRE 102		7:05		7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam		10:20		10:45		Daily		FRE 104		7:50		8:00	Daily
Saipan-Rota						FRE 106		8:20		8:30		Daily	
FRE 400		18:55		19:25		Daily		FRE 108		9:00		9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam						FRE 110		10:00		10:10		Daily	
FRE 400		19:40		20:10		Daily		FRE 112		11:05		11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian						FRE 114		12:00		12:10		Daily	
FRE 101		6:45		6:55		Daily		FRE 116		13:30		13:40	Daily
FRE 103		7:30		7:40		Daily		FRE 118		14:50		15:00	Daily
FRE 105		8:00		8:10		Daily		FRE 120		16:20		16:30	Daily
FRE 107		8:40		8:50		Daily		FRE 122		17:00		17:10	Daily
FRE 109		9:10		9:20		Daily		FRE 124		18:05		18:15	Daily
FRE 111		10:45		10:55		Daily		FRE 126		18:50		19:00	Daily

Business

Foremost donates 600 cases of milk

Foremost Foods Saipan continued to share with the community its commitment to a healthy and fit lifestyle through its donation of Foremost milk, coinciding with its 60th year in the business.

Foremost Foods Saipan, represented by Group Business manager Glen D. Hunter and sales supervisor Gerry Hemley, donated 600 cases of milk to the Office on Aging, Commonwealth Health Center, Karidat, and Salvation Army.

Hunter said, "We are very excited about being able to help these various groups with our donation of Foremost milk. These groups do a lot for the community on a daily basis and it is great that we are able to give a little back to assist with their ongoing efforts."

On Capital Hill, Salvation Army ministry leader Rev. Wayne Gillespie welcomed the donation of 50 cases of milk.

"We are really happy to have received this donation of milk from Foremost. This is going to be a large contribution to our food assistance program," he said.

At the Man'amko Center, a total of 200 cases of Foremost UHT milk were delivered in two batches that were received by Office on Aging director Rosa Mondala as well as more than 50 congregates.

Mondala expressed her gratitude to Foremost. "I want to thank Foremost for thinking of us." She also said she hopes other companies follow Foremost's lead.

Mondala also explained the donation and reiterated the requirement for the aged at the center to consume milk. She told the elders, "Drink this milk. We need milk to get stronger."

Man'amko Council treasurer Teresita R. Sorosa said, "In behalf of the Man'amko Council we would like to thank Foremost for this generous donation."

Speaking before the congregates Hemley said, "This is our way of giving back to the community for supporting us all these years."



Wayne Gillespie, ministry leader, CNMI Citadel Corps, receives the milk donation from Glen D. Hunter, group business manager, Transpacific International Inc. on Aug. 18.



The early recipients of the milk donation from Foremost pose for a photo opportunity in front of the Karidat Office in Susupe. Judith I. Pangelinan, administrative officer; Angie Deleon Guerrero, director, both of Karidat and Gerry Hemley, sales supervisor, Foremost Foods Saipan, are flanked by the recipients of milk donation.



From left, Glen D. Hunter, group business manager, Transpacific International Inc.; Rita C. Flawau, congregante, Office on Aging; Teresita R. Sorosa, treasurer, Man'amko Council; Rosa Mondala, director, Office on Aging; Gerry Hemley, sales supervisor, Foremost Foods Saipan; and Walter Manglona, coordinator.



At the cafeteria of the Commonwealth Health Center. Joe Tudela, food supervisor II for the dietary unit, receives the donation from, left, Glen D. Hunter, group manager, Transpacific International Inc. and Gerry Hemley, sales supervisor, Foremost Foods Saipan.

ing back to the community for supporting us all these years."

Moreover, the Commonwealth Health Center also twice received 100

cases of Foremost UHT milk. On hand to receive the donation was Joe Tudela, food supervisor II for dietary unity. He said, "We really appreciate Foremost's

milk donation."

A total of 150 cases of milk were received at the Karidat in two rounds of donation. Karidat director Angie V.

Deleon Guerrero said, "We really appreciate the donation that Foremost made. We'll also share this with the Manhoben." (*Foremost*)

Japan export growth slows for fifth month in July

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's export growth slowed for the fifth straight month in July as slowing global demand and a strong yen erode a key driver of the country's economy.

The deceleration poses a major risk for Japan's export-driven recovery. With lackluster demand at home, the country has depended on high-growth countries like China to fuel the economy.

That expansion is now waning just as exporters face a new onslaught from the yen, which hit a fresh 15-year high against the U.S. dollar this week. It weakened slightly on Wednesday amid speculation that Japan's monetary authorities might intervene in the currency market for the first time since March 2004 to stem the rise.

An appreciating yen is toxic for

exporters like Toyota Motor Corp. and Sony Corp. because it shrinks the value of repatriated profits and makes their products less competitive overseas.

"When it is needed, we must respond with appropriate measures," Finance Minister Yoshihiko Noda told reporters. He said he hoped to work closely with the central bank.

Growing political pressure could also prompt the Bank of Japan to further ease monetary policy to try to weaken the yen, according to local media reports. Economists say the central bank may decide to boost liquidity by expanding its three-month low-interest loan program for financial institutions.

The policy board's next scheduled meeting begins Sept. 6.

Salmonella vaccine might have prevented egg recall

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Low-cost vaccines that may have helped prevent the kind of salmonella outbreak that has led to the recall of more than a half-billion eggs haven't been given to half of the nation's egg-laying hens.

The vaccines aren't required in the U.S., although in Great Britain, officials say vaccinations have given them the safest egg supply in Europe. A survey conducted by the European food safety agency in 2009 found that about 1 percent of British flocks had salmonella compared to about 60 to 70 percent of flocks elsewhere in Europe, said Amanda Cryer, spokeswoman for the British Egg Information Service.

There's been no push to require vaccination in the U.S., in part because it would cost farmers and in part because advocates have been more focused on more comprehensive food safety reforms, those watching the poultry industry said.

But Darrell Trampel, a poultry veterinarian at Iowa State University, predicted vaccination will become more common after the recent outbreak.

"I think (vaccination) will move from hit and miss to being a standard," Trampel said.

The salmonella vaccine prevents chickens from becoming infected and then passing the bacteria on to their eggs. It has been available in the U.S. since 1992.

There are two forms. One is a spray that uses a live bacteria, and chickens inhale it. The other contains dead bacteria that's injected. Jewanna Porter, a spokeswoman for the Egg Safety Center, an industry group, said both forms provide good protection. The injected vaccine lasts longer, but veterinarians recommend both be updated.

In most cases, laying hens are vaccinated at between 10 and 16 weeks

old, which is before they are put into production.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration said last month it doesn't believe mandatory vaccination is necessary, but it supports farmers doing it voluntarily.

Data on the vaccine's effectiveness in field trials conducted in real world conditions "was insufficient to support a mandatory vaccination requirement," the agency said in the text of new rules requiring increased inspections and testing of eggs.

"If individual producers have identified vaccines that are effective for particular farms, FDA encourages the use of vaccine as an additional preventative measure," the agency said.

Telephone and e-mail messages left for FDA spokeswoman Patricia El-Hinnawy for further explanation were not immediately returned Tuesday.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
10,040.45	1,051.87	2,123.76
-133.96	-15.49	-35.87
-1.32%	-1.45%	-1.66%

EXCHANGE RATES

n U.S. dollar terms	Australian Dollar	1.1315	Indian Rupee	46.8850	Singapore Dollar	1.3596
	British Pound	0.6484	Indonesian Rupiah	8,985.0	South Korean Won	1,191.2
	Canadian Dollar	1.0605	Japanese Yen	84.2650	Swiss Franc	1.0307
	Chinese Yuan	6.7990	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1423	Taiwan Dollar	32.0305
	Euro	0.7906	New Zealand Dollar	1.4242	Thailand Baht	31.5200

Nation

Drug war sends bullets whizzing across the border

EL PASO, Texas (AP)—The first bullets struck El Paso's city hall at the end of a work day. The next ones hit a university building and closed a major highway. Shootouts in the drug war along the U.S.-Mexico border are sending bullets whizzing across the Rio Grande into one of the nation's safest cities, where authorities worry it's only a matter of time before someone gets hurt or killed.

At least eight bullets have been fired into El Paso in the last few weeks from the rising violence in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, one of the world's most dangerous places. And all American

police can do is shrug because they cannot legally intervene in a war in another country. The best they can do is warn people to stay inside.

"There's really not a lot you can do right now," El Paso County Sheriff Richard Wiles said. "Those gun battles are breaking out everywhere, and some are breaking out right along the border."

Police say the rounds were not intentionally fired into the U.S. But wildly aimed gunfire has become common in Juarez, a sprawling city of shanty neighborhoods that once boomed with manufacturing plants. It's

ground zero in Mexico's relentless drug war.

More than 6,000 people have been killed there since 2008, when the Sinaloa and Juarez cartels started battling each other and Mexican authorities for control of the city and smuggling routes into the U.S. Nationwide, more than 28,000 people have been killed since President Felipe Calderon launched his offensive against the cartels shortly after taking office in December 2006.

Until now, communities on the U.S. side of the border have been largely shielded from the

violence raging just across the river. But the recent incidents are the first time that live ammunition has landed in American territory.

On Saturday, as gunmen and Mexican authorities exchanged gunfire in Juarez, police in El Paso shut down several miles of border highway. Border Patrol spokesman Doug Mosier said his agency asked for the closure—a first since the drug war erupted—"in the interest of public safety."

No one was injured on the U.S. side, but one bullet came across the Rio Grande, crashed through a window and lodged in an office door frame at the University of Texas at El Paso. Police are also investigating reports that another errant round shattered a window in a passing car. Witnesses at a nearby charity said at least one bullet hit their building, too.

El Paso police spokesman Darrel Petry said authorities have only confirmed the sin-

gle bullet found at the university, but it is possible that several other shots flew across the border.

"As a local municipality, we are doing everything we can," Petry said. "Looking where we're at, the community we live in, that's all we've got. It's the reality of life here in El Paso for right now."

Officers say the types of bullets used in the drug war can travel more than a mile before falling to the ground.



AP

In this Aug. 21, 2010 photo, Mexican federal police ride in pickup trucks as they patrol a neighborhood adjacent to the Rio Grande and across from an El Paso neighborhood following a firefight in Juarez, Mexico.

McCain wins renomination, novice shines in Fla.

WASHINGTON (AP)—John McCain sailed to nomination for a fifth Senate term Tuesday over an Arizona challenger with tea party support, while big-spending political novice Rick Scott beat an insider in Florida's Republican gubernatorial primary as voters split on the merits of establishment candidates vs. outsiders.

In other big-name races, Rep. Kendrick Meek prevailed for Florida's Senate Democratic nomination over upstart Jeff Greene, and Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska counted on voters to reward political experience as she faced a spirited Republican primary challenge 10 weeks before the general election.

Nominating contests in five states - Vermont also was voting, and Oklahoma held GOP runoffs - highlighted dominant themes of this unpredictable election year,

including anti-establishment anger and tea party challenges from the right. But the early results indicated that if there was a single pattern to the night, it may have been the lack of one.

Just two years after reaching the pinnacle of the GOP establishment as the party's presidential nominee, McCain



McCain

found himself facing a stiff Senate primary challenge by ex-radio host and former Rep. J.D. Hayworth, who tried to tap into anti-Washington sentiment coursing through the electorate. So, McCain spent more than \$20 million and aggressively cast Hayworth in a negative light.

It worked, and McCain, who has never lost a statewide race, comfortably won the Republican nod in his home state. He now enters the general election as the heavy favorite to win a fifth term.

"This was a tough, hard-fought primary," McCain said at a victory party—and he quickly looked to the fall campaign. "I promise you, I take nothing for granted and will fight with every ounce of strength and conviction I possess to make the case for my continued service in the Senate."

In the extraordinarily bitter GOP race for Florida governor, Scott's financial might and criticism of his opponent as a typical tax-raising politician proved too much for McCollum, the state's attorney general and a former congressman with the support of national party leaders in Washington.

Scott, who made a fortune in the health care industry and spent \$39 million of it blanketing the state with TV ads, will face Alex Sink, the state's chief financial officer who sailed to the Democratic nomination. The race is certain to be one of the most hotly contested gubernatorial contests this fall.

Ousted worker Sherrod rejects return to Agriculture

WASHINGTON (AP)—Shirley Sherrod, ousted from the Agriculture Department during a racial firestorm that embarrassed the Obama administration, rejected an offer to return to the USDA on Tuesday. But at a cordial news conference with the man who asked her to leave—Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack—she said she may do consulting work for him on racial issues.

She was asked to leave her job as Georgia's director of rural development in July after comments she made in March were misconstrued as racist. She has since received numerous apologies from the administration, including from President Barack Obama himself, and Vilsack

asked her to return. But she said at the news conference with a clearly disappointed Vilsack that she did not think she could say yes to a job "at this point, with all that has happened."

Vilsack said she may work with the department in a consulting capacity in the future to help improve outreach to minorities.

"I look forward to some type of relationship with the department in the future," said Sherrod, who is black. "We do need to work on the issues of discrimination and race in this country."

Vilsack had asked her to become the deputy director of the Office of Advocacy and Outreach, a new position designed to bolster the depart-

ment's shaky record on civil rights. He had also given her a chance to return to her former job. Both of them said Tuesday Sherrod may return to the department as a consultant once an ongoing review of the department's efforts on race issues is completed.

"I think I can be helpful to him and the department if I just take a little break and look at how I can be more helpful in the future," Sherrod said.

The two appeared friendly as Vilsack expressed his regret that Sherrod wouldn't return to USDA. He put his arm around her at the news conference and said he leaned on her hard to return and help the department with racial issues.

ACROSS THE NATION

NY archbishop worries about tone of mosque debate

NEW YORK (AP)—The tense climate around a proposal for an Islamic community center and mosque near ground zero could put New Yorkers in danger of losing their sense of tolerance and unity, values they embraced in the days after Sept. 11, the leader of the area's Roman Catholics said Tuesday. "We're just a little bit apprehensive that these noble values may be a bit at risk in this way the conversation and debate about the site of the mosque is taking place," Archbishop Timothy Dolan said after a meeting with Gov. David Paterson about the issue. A national survey underscored the complex views of Americans toward the mosque project, with 51 percent agreeing with opponents of the Muslim center, while 34 percent said they supported it. The poll of 1,003 randomly chosen adults was conducted by the nonpartisan Pew Research Center and showed that a majority, 62 percent, also said Muslims have equal rights to build houses of worship. Dolan said both sides of the debate have legitimate stances.

Cops: SC man made woman his slave for bail money

LEXINGTON, S.C. (AP)—A South Carolina bail bondsman has been charged with forcing a woman to cook, clean and do sexual favors for him in exchange for getting her out of jail. Lexington County Sheriff James Metts said Tuesday that 51-year-old Curtis Maroney told the 39-year-old woman he would revoke her bond if she didn't obey his commands. After five days, investigators say Maroney drove the woman to visit her children at her father's home and she called deputies. Maroney is charged with blackmail and trafficking in persons. He remains in the Lexington County jail. Bond has not been set

and it's not clear if he has an attorney. Metts says the woman had been arrested for driving under the influence and spent 12 days in jail before Maroney posted her \$16,000 bond.

Experts: Gators in northern waters probably pets

CHICAGO (AP)—Two gators in the Chicago River. One strolling down a Massachusetts street. Another in bustling New York City. And that's just in the past few weeks. From North Dakota to Indiana, alligators are showing up far from their traditional southern habitats—including a 3-footer captured Tuesday in the Chicago River. But experts say it's not the latest sign of global warming. Instead the creatures almost certainly were pets that escaped or were dumped by their owners. "People buy them as pets and then they get too big and at some point they decide they just can't deal with it," said Kent Vliet, an alligator expert from the University of Florida who tracks media reports about the reptiles.

Experts check stranded whale for injuries in Fla.

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Marine mammal experts are examining a stranded sperm whale for injuries in waters next to a South Beach marina. The Coast Guard said Tuesday that the nine-foot long whale appeared to have gashes on its back and was just on the surface of the water next to the Miami Beach Marina. The Coast Guard is providing security to help scientists and a veterinarian from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration look at the whale. Erin Fougeres, a marine mammal biologist with NOAA Fisheries, says the whale is probably a calf. Helicopters are in the area searching for the whale's mother. If they are unable to find her, the calf could be euthanized.

Asia

RP mourns, HK angry after hijack deaths

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines acknowledged “inadequacies” in handling a hostage crisis that killed eight Hong Kong tourists, as anger over the botched negotiations erupted Tuesday in Hong Kong with demonstrations and harsh words.

A heartbreaking picture emerged of the victims—a mother of three who lost her husband and two daughters, a teenager oblivious of her parents’ death and a tour guide who aspired to become a yoga teacher.

Philippine President Benigno Aquino III, facing his first major crisis since taking office on June 30, declared Wednesday a national day of mourning in solidarity with the people of Hong Kong to “share their sorrow,” his spokesman Edwin Lacierda said.

Officials promised a full investigation into how the hijacker—a former policeman demanding his job back—was able to gun down eight of the 15 Hong Kong hostages on board the bus before a sniper killed him and officers were finally able to get into the vehicle. Seven other hostages survived the final bloodbath, which came after a 12-hour standoff at a seaside Manila park.

Philippine Interior Secretary Jessie Robredo, who is in charge of the national police, acknowledged Tuesday there were problems with how the crisis was handled.



Relatives of the eight Hong Kong tourists who were killed in the tourist bus hostage crisis, kiss the ground near the bullet-riddled tourist bus during a Buddhist ceremony Tuesday Aug. 24, 2010 at Rizal Park in Manila, Philippines. AP

“Had we been better prepared, better equipped, better trained, maybe the response would have been quicker despite the difficulty,” Robredo said.

He added, “All the inadequacies happened at the same time.”

Philippine police had defended their actions—pointing out that officers lacking proper equipment

had risked their lives in trying to bring the standoff to an end. But they promised to review all events leading to the deaths.

In Hong Kong, sorrow quick-

ly evolved into outrage, with several of the semiautonomous Chinese territory’s political parties leading protesters to the Philippine Consulate.

Demonstrators chanted, “You caused the deaths of Hong Kongers,” and one protester scuffled with a security guard.

“We think the Philippine government used the wrong strategy. We think the operation failed,” pro-Beijing legislator Lau Kong-wah told reporters.

Several Hong Kong newspapers printed mastheads in black, and flags in the territory flew at half-staff.

“Filipino police incompetent,” Hong Kong’s *Ming Pao Daily News* said in a front-page headline.

The Hong Kong-based Asian Human Rights Committee added its voice to demands for an explanation, but also was “deeply concerned by people who are trying to blow this incident out of proportion” and who might vent anger through retaliatory attacks against thousands of Filipinos who work there, mostly as maids.

“This tragedy should not become a conflict of nationalities,” it said in a statement.

Aquino on Tuesday met Chinese ambassador Liu Jianchao and phoned Hong Kong leader Donald Tsang to brief them on the investigation into the crisis that started when a dismissed police officer armed with a M16 rifle and a pistol seized a busload of 21 Hong Kong tourists and four Filipinos to demand his reinstatement on the force.

UN says 800,000 cut off by Pakistan floods

ISLAMABAD (AP)—About 800,000 people have been cut off by floods in Pakistan and are only reachable by air, the United Nations said Tuesday, adding it needs at least 40 more helicopters to ferry lifesaving aid to increasingly desperate people.

The appeal was an indication of the massive problems facing the relief effort in Pakistan more than three weeks after the floods hit the country, affecting more than 17 million people and raising concerns about possible social unrest and political instability.

“These unprecedented floods pose unprecedented logistical challenges, and this requires an

extraordinary effort by the international community,” said John Holmes, U.N. under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs.

Earlier, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said hundreds of health facilities had been damaged and tens of thousands of medical workers displaced and the country’s chief meteorologist warned that it would be two weeks until the Indus River—the focus of the flooding still sweeping through the country—returns to normal levels.

Qamar-uz-Zaman Chaudhry said high tides in the Arabian Sea would slow the drainage of the Indus into it. Those tides, he said, will begin changing on Aug. 25.

“The flood situation is not yet over,” Chaudhry said, adding that the Indus would reach peak flood stage late this week.

The floods began with hammering monsoon rains in the northwest and have swept southwards.

Many of those cut off are in the mountainous northwest, where roads and bridges have been swept away.

The United States has deployed at least 18 helicopters that are flying regular relief missions, but the United Nations said it would need at least 40 more heavy-lift choppers working at full-capacity to reach the estimated 800,000 stranded in the country.

Jet misses runway, crashes in China; 42 killed

BEIJING (AP)—Aviation officials at a relatively new airport in northeast China searched through debris Wednesday for clues to why a passenger jet crashed and burned while trying to land on a fog-shrouded runway, killing 42 people and injuring 54 others.

The Henan Airlines plane with 91 passengers and five crew crashed late Tuesday in a grassy area near the Lindu airport on the outskirts of Yichun. Five of those on-board were children, the Civil Aviation Administration of China said, and at least one, an 8-year-old boy, survived.

It was China’s first major commercial air disaster in nearly six years. The plane’s black box was recovered, Xinhua reported, but it is still not known what caused the accident.

The newly built Yichun airport sits in a forested valley and has operated for a year, and concerns about the safety of night landings there had been raised by at least one major airline.

China Southern Airlines decided last August to avoid night flights in and out of Yichun, switching its daily flight from Harbin to the daytime. A technical notice cited

concerns about the airport’s surrounding terrain, runway lighting and wind and weather conditions.

“Principally there should be no night flights at Yichun airport,” said the notice from China Southern’s Heilongjiang province branch that was posted online. An employee with the branch’s technical office confirmed the notice’s authenticity. He declined to give his name because he was not authorized to talk to the media, but said China Southern decided to cancel night flights at Yichun “for safety concerns. We’re cautious.”



ASIAN BRIEFS

China’s massive traffic jam could last for weeks

BEIJING (AP)—China has just been declared the world’s second biggest economy, and now it has a monster traffic jam to match. Triggered by road construction, the snarl-up began 10 days ago and was 100 kilometers (60 miles) long at one point. Reaching almost to the outskirts of Beijing, traffic still creeps along in fits and starts, and the crisis could

last for another three weeks, authorities say. It’s a metaphor for a nation that sometimes chokes on its own breakneck growth. In the worst-hit stretches of the road in northern China, drivers pass the time sitting in the shade of their immobilized trucks, playing cards, sleeping on the asphalt or bargaining with price-gouging food vendors. Many of the trucks that carry fruit and vegetables are unrefrigerated, and the cargoes are assumed to be rotting.

NKorea deploying troops, weapons near Pyongyang

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea is deploying troops, artillery and tanks near Pyongyang in apparent preparation for a massive military parade marking key national events later this year, South Korea said Tuesday. The military buildup near the capital began in mid-July amid high tensions on the peninsula, South

Korea’s Defense Ministry said in a report submitted to a parliamentary committee. “Preparation for a massive national event is under way” in North Korea and the move is presumably related to a key Workers’ Party meeting in September and the 65th anniversary of the party’s founding in October, it said. North Korea would likely use the military assets to stage a parade in Pyongyang, a ministry official said on condition

of anonymity citing department policy.

US to supply Taiwan air force radar equipment

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—The United States said it will supply radar equipment to Taiwan’s air force, an approval of a relatively marginal item less likely to anger China than the F-16 fighter jets the island’s president urged Washington to provide last week. U.S. State

Department spokesman Philip J. Crowley said Tuesday that the U.S. sale includes “defense services, technical data, and defense articles” for Taiwan’s air defense system, and radar equipment for the island’s Indigenous Defense Fighter jets. Crowley did not put a monetary figure on the deal or identify the American companies involved. The U.S. is obligated by law to provide Taiwan defensive weapons.

World

2 days of food stretched more than 2 weeks in mine

COPIAPO, Chile (AP)—Each of the 33 miners trapped a half-mile underground lived on two spoonfuls of tuna, a sip of milk, a bite of crackers and a morsel of peaches. Every other day.

They were so careful in eating what was supposed to be a two-day emergency supply that when the outside world finally reached them 17 days after a mine collapse, they still had some food left.

The discipline the men have already shown will be essential during the four months it may take rescuers to dig a hole wide enough to get them out of their shelter. The first communications with the trapped miners, now able to talk through a fixed line with their rescuers above—show how determined they have been to stay alive.

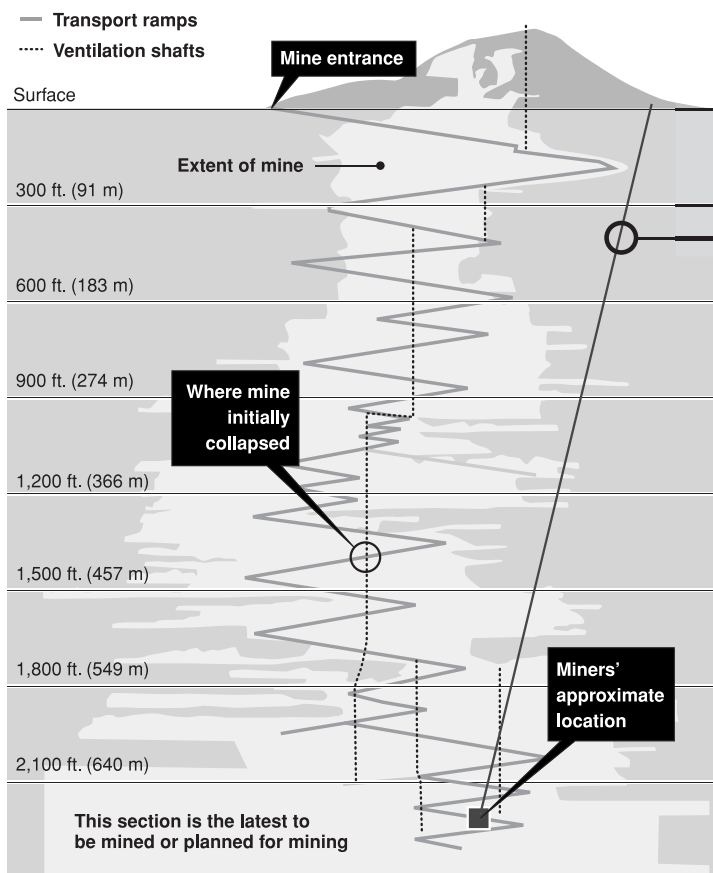
“We heard them with such strength, such spirit, which is a reflection of what for them has been a gigantic fortitude and a very well organized effort,” Mining Minister Laurence Golborne said Tuesday after talking with the miners at length the night before through an intercom system lowered into their underground refuge. “The way that they have rationed the food, just as they’ve performed throughout this crisis, is an example for all of us.”

The miners were plunged into darkness by the Aug. 5 collapse of the main shaft of a gold and silver mine that runs like a corkscrew for more than four miles (7 kilometers) under a barren mountain in northern Chile’s Atacama desert. They gained contact with the outside world Sunday when rescuers drilled a narrow bore-hole down to their living-room-sized shelter after seven failed attempts.

“It’s been like a heart that’s breaking, but we’re thankful they’re all alive,” bore-hole driller Rodrigo Carreno told The Associated Press as he prepared to leave Tuesday. “We did everything we

Trapped underground

Thirty-three Chilean miners are stuck in a small refuge area more than 2,000 ft. (610 m) underground.



could to save them, and in the end we succeeded.”

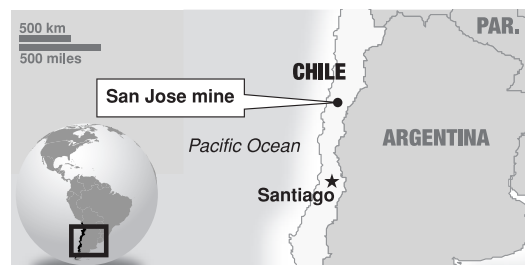
The miners said they have honored the same hierarchy they used on any work shift, following the directions of 54-year-old shift foreman Luis Urzua.

They conserved the use of their helmet lamps, their only source of light other than a handful of vehicles whose engines contaminate the air supply. They fired up a bulldozer to carve into a natural water deposit, but otherwise

minimized using the vehicles that contaminate the available air.

The miners can still reach many chambers and access ramps in the lower reaches of the mine, and have used a separate area some distance from their reinforced emergency refuge as their bathroom. But they have mostly stayed in the refuge, where they knew rescuers would try to reach them.

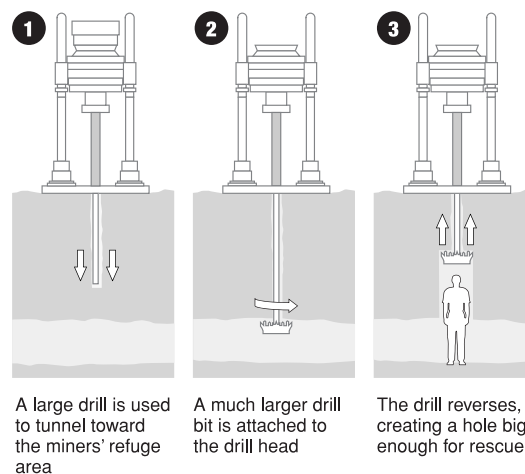
The room has become stiflingly hot and stuffy. Leaving it allows them to



Reaching the miners

Rescuers found the miners using a camera and other communication devices inserted through a small tube (—) drilled from the surface; they are now sending food, water and medicine

The plan to get them out



© 2010 MCT
Source: Minería Chilena, La Tercera, El Mercurio, ESRI, USGS
Graphic: Chicago Tribune

breathe better air, but wandering too far is risky in the unstable mine, which has suffered several rock collapses since the initial accident. It's also spooky, since headlamps can illuminate only small areas of the vast space.

Rescue efforts advanced considerably Tuesday as a third bore-hole prepared to break through to the miners, and a huge machine arrived from central Chile to carve out a tunnel just wide enough for the miners to be pulled out

one-by-one. That machine won't begin drilling for several days.

Andres Sougarret, the rescue effort's leader, estimated that it would take three to four months to pull the men out. But Davitt McAteer, a former assistant secretary of the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration, called that “perhaps the most conservative model.”

“Twenty-five hundred feet is not a terribly, terribly big hole to drill,” McAteer said. “We ought to be able to get them out in a period of weeks, not months.”

Meanwhile, three 6-inch-wide (15-centimeter) shafts will serve as the miners' “umbilical cords”—one for supplies, another for communications and a third to guarantee their air supply.

A steady flow of emergency supplies was sent down to the miners on Tuesday in a rocket-shaped metal tube called a “paloma,” Spanish for dove. The paloma is 5 1/4 feet (1.6 meters) long and takes a full hour to descend through the bore-hole.

The supplies included 33 small low-intensity and low-energy LED lights, so that each miner can have a light source that won't bother his eyes in the otherwise murky depths of the mine. Also sent down Tuesday was “more nutritive food” in the form of a vitamin-enriched gel, along with eye patches, aspirin and medicine for one miner who has diabetes and another who suffers from the respiratory disease silicosis, Health Minister Jaime Manalich said Tuesday.

Family members who have maintained an anxious vigil outside the mine were encouraged to send notes down Tuesday. First was Lila Ramirez, answering the “Dear Lila” letter from her husband, Mario Gomez, that thrilled the nation when President Sebastian Pinera read it aloud, providing the first details of the miners' survival.

Remaining US troops still face danger in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—Lt. Ryan Alexander stands thigh-deep in a dark grove of reeds and palm trees, hunting for rockets. Officially, the U.S. combat role in Iraq is ending this month, but Alexander and his platoon are under orders to keep insurgents from using the south Baghdad field as a hiding place for Katyushas.

“We’re going to be doing this as long as they tell us,” Alexander said in a near-whisper in the steamy pre-dawn air, his machine gun slung over his shoulder. Behind him, Iraqi Lt. Wassan Fadah Hussein had his handgun out and ready for action.

In the near distance came a gunshot. “Sounded like a little boom,” Alexander drawled.

The number of U.S. soldiers in Iraq dipped Tuesday to 49,700, dropping below the 50,000 threshold ahead of the end-of-the-month deadline set by President Barack Obama. But the war is not yet over for the remaining troops, who will continue to put themselves in danger on counterterror raids and other high-risk missions that aren't called combat but can be just as deadly.

Until the end of 2011, U.S. troops will mostly focus on training Iraqi soldiers

and police to take over the nation's still-shaky security. They will counsel Iraqi officials on how to endear themselves to their citizens, whether through handing out soccer balls to kids or building irrigation systems for farmers.

But they will also still be on security patrols—like the one that Iraqi police said was hit by a roadside bomb Tuesday in the southern city of Basra, with no casualties immediately reported. And they will still be dying—the 4,416th U.S. soldier to die in Iraq was killed in a Basra rocket attack earlier this week.

Argentine president moves to control newsprint

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Argentina's president moved Tuesday to take over the nation's only newsprint maker, saying two leading newspapers illegally conspired with dictators to control the company three decades ago and then used it to drive competing media out of business.

President Cristina Fernandez said the courts should decide whether the Grupo Clarin and La Nacion media companies should be charged with crimes against humanity—specifically whether the newsprint company was illegally expropriated by



Fernandez

the newspapers and the military junta.

The companies, with which Fernandez has been feuding for two years, deny any illegality in the acquisition of the newsprint maker, or other crimes. They accuse Fernandez of baldly trying to control the essential material needed to guarantee freedom of expression in Argentina, a position supported by the Inter-American Press Association and other press freedom groups.

Speaking in a national broadcast, Fernandez said she was defending those rights. She accused Grupo Clarin

and La Nacion of using the newsprint company, Papel Prensa SA, to impose media monopolies on Argentina, stifling other viewpoints by refusing to sell paper at fair prices to competitors.

She showed a headline from the opposition Clarin newspaper saying “Who controls Papel Prensa controls the written word,” and said she couldn't agree more.

“Papel Prensa is the only company that produces newsprint in this country,” Fernandez said, “and it's a vertically integrated monopoly. It determines who it sells to, how much it sells and at what price. And so yes, whoever controls it controls the written word in the Republic of Argentina.”

WORLD BRIEFS

UK police: Suspect arrested in 1999 suitcase death

LONDON (AP)—Authorities in Bahrain arrested a suspect Tuesday in the case of a Canadian singer whose body was found stuffed inside a suitcase at London's Heathrow Airport in 1999, according to London's Scotland Yard. The force said that Youssef Ahmed Wahid was arrested in the Gulf state in what it described as a planned operation and his extradition was pending. The body of 28-year-old Fatima Kama was found when a member of the public spotted a black suitcase abandoned on the third floor of a Heathrow Airport parking lot July 17, 1999. A security guard forced the bag open to find her in the fetal position. A post-mortem revealed she'd been stabbed more than 10 times.

Hezbollah, Sunni group clash in Beirut, killing 3

BEIRUT (AP)—Lebanese Shiite and Sunni groups fought street battles using machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades for more than four hours Tuesday, killing three people and wounding several others just blocks from a busy downtown packed with summer tourists. The dead included a Hezbollah official and his aide, security officials said.

Lebanese soldiers cordoned off the area during the worst of the fighting, but the crackle of sniper fire and blasts from rocket-propelled grenades were audible for hours. Gunmen stood on corners and peering down alleyways while families ran for cover during lulls in the fighting. Ambulances rushed to the scene; an elderly man was loaded into a stretcher clutching his neck, while another man was covered in blood and not moving.

Mexico: Zetas gang ordered killing of mayor

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The Zetas drug gang ordered the killing of a mayor in northern Mexico because he had disciplined police officers secretly working with the cartel, authorities said Tuesday. Nuevo Leon state Attorney General Alejandro Garza y Garza said several of the seven police officers arrested in the killing of Santiago Mayor Edelmiro Cavazos admitted they worked for the Zetas as lookouts. Garza y Garza said Cavazos had reprimanded some traffic police officers for wrongfully fining mountain bikers and applied disciplinary measures that included pay cuts. “They say that since he scolded them ... they figured he was working for their enemies,” the prosecutor said.

Focus

By **MARTHA QUILLIN**
THE NEWS & OBSERVER

PITTSBORO, N.C.—The dropping of the first atomic bomb was a deliberately exclusive mission assigned to just three U.S. planes: the *Enola Gay*, which carried the 9,700-pound ordnance the morning of Aug. 6, 1945, and two other B-29s that followed at a safe distance to record the effects of the blast.

Other Allied aircraft were barred from the area of southern Japan, mostly because scientists who built the bomb didn't know exactly what it would do.

But there was one more B-29 in the sky over Hiroshima at the moment "Little Boy" was let loose, and its crew witnessed the event that helped end World War II.

It has been left out of historical accounts—and treated by some as the spurious claim of an old man—because this plane wasn't supposed to be there.

Asheboro, N.C., flyboy John McGlohon and his 10 Army Air Force crewmen didn't get the order to stay away from Hiroshima. When the bomb blew up, their aircraft was approaching the city on a routine photography reconnaissance mission, with McGlohon running the cameras. The photos he took minutes after the explosion were the only ones made looking straight down on Hiroshima as the mushroom cloud was enveloping it.

For decades, McGlohon had nothing more to substantiate his story of having seen and photographed that pivotal moment than his detailed memories. The *Enola Gay* flying in the opposite direction, trying to get clear of the blast. The blinding burst of light at detonation, brighter than a million-million flash bulbs. The massive cloud of ash and smoke.

After 65 years, McGlohon and his two surviving crewmen finally have proof.

Ken Samuelson has spent the past two years researching and vindicating McGlohon's claim.

"He was there. The plane was there. There is no question," says Samuelson, who pursued confirmation in archives and memories all over the country from his home in Fearington Village, N.C. "This is a story that is not really known, that has never been publicized."

McGlohon entered the war like millions of others, young adventurers who saw military service as a way out of wherever they were.

On his 18th birthday, he went to Winston-Salem, N.C., to talk to a recruiter.

"He said, 'Where do you

want to go?'" McGlohon recalls. "I said, 'Just as far as you can send me.'"

In June 1941, he was sent to Maxwell Field in Montgomery, Ala., where he asked to join the newly formed 3rd Photo Reconnaissance Squadron, which gathered aerial photographs for use in making detailed military maps. Assigned to clerical work, he was fascinated by darkroom processes and soon learned how to run and print film. While the squadron was on assignment in Brazil in 1942, one of the photographers got sick and was sent home, and McGlohon was ordered to replace him.

For most of the war, McGlohon was at the shutter of one kind of camera or another, mostly large-format outfits each weighing as much as a small child. His job was to capture detailed images of whatever portion of the world his cameras could see through a 12-by-12-inch window in the belly of a plane.

He helped map what would become the Alaska Highway and "the Hump" in the Hima-

layan Mountains. The squadron was in Salina, Kansas, at Smoky Hill Air Force Base learning to fly the new B-29 for missions in Europe when McGlohon's brother, a bombardier, was killed in England.

His squadron spent months flying missions out of Chentu, China, covering the Korean Peninsula and parts of Japan.

In the spring of 1945, his group rejoined the 3rd Photo squadron at Harmon Field on the island of Guam. The 3rd was attached then to the 20th Air Force, but in mid-July it was transferred to the 8th Air Force, which was bringing its might to help bombard Japan. The 3rd's assignment was usually to fly before or after a bombing mission, gathering intelligence from 25,000 to 30,000 feet above the ground. The photos were used to guide the bombers, or to document the damage they inflicted.

"We saw cities burning every day," McGlohon says.

McGlohon's plane, piloted by Jack Economos, left in the early hours of Aug. 6 for a long flying day, to photograph potential targets near Hiroshima, Kure and farther north.

As they neared Hiroshima around 8:15 a.m., a gunner reported over the intercom seeing a B-29 flying in the opposite direction as if headed for an emergency landing at Iwo Jima.

Often, McGlohon says, when bombers had engine trouble, they would abort their missions, drop their bomb loads and try to



John McGlohon, right, of Asheboro, North Carolina, holds a photo of himself, July 26, 2010, with an aerial camera similar to the one he used to shoot photos of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. At left is Ken Samuelson, who spent months doggedly tracking the A-bomb photo.

He really did shoot photos of the Hiroshima A-bomb

reach a friendly landing site.

Within seconds, McGlohon said, "There was a brilliant flash below our plane. The light was as if someone had fired a big flashbulb directly in your eyes."

"We assumed the bomber had salvaged his bomb load and managed to get a good hit on an ammunition dump or an oil tank, so the day wouldn't be a total loss," McGlohon said. He turned on his cameras to shoot the damage and the cloud that was rising from below so that later, "The crew could get credit for the good job they had done."

Without breaking radio silence, McGlohon says, his crew completed its mission, returning to Guam late in the afternoon.

When he went to deliver his usual truckload of film to the lab, McGlohon says, he was met by two Marine guards at the door. Inside, technicians were already working on film shot by the photo team that was assigned to follow the *Enola Gay*.

McGlohon eventually was allowed to take his film into the lab, where he saw negatives being processed that included distant images of the cloud he had photographed from directly overhead.

"What is that?" he asked. A sergeant answered, "An atomic bomb."

"Well if it is," McGlohon told him, "we took portraits of it this morning."

At first, he said, no one believed it. He dug out his film.

McGlohon never saw the film again after he handed it over for processing.

On Aug. 9, the second bomb was dropped, on Nagasaki, and Japan offered to surrender.

After the war ended, McGlohon left Guam so fast he hardly said goodbye. Back home in Asheboro for 40 years, where he became fire chief and served on the city council, he heard nothing from his old friends in the photo squadron. Finally they found him, and he began to attend reunions.

It was at one of those, in 1995, when McGlohon saw for the first time a print of the photo he had taken the morning the atomic bomb was dropped. The picture was mounted on a display board.

"That's what I saw out the bottom of my airplane that day," McGlohon told his wife.

Indeed, the squadron's lab chief, Elmer Dixon, had brought home copies of many key photos, some still marked "SECRET."

One clearly shows the docks on the south side of Hiroshima in the left half of the frame. The right half is a mass of smoke that obliterates the rest of the city.

The print bears a date from the processing lab of Aug. 6, 1945.

Over the years, McGlohon told the story to civic groups, friends, anyone interested in military history. Only after it was relayed in an Internet forum did anyone suggest outright that McGlohon was some kind of poseur.

Ken Samuelson believed him. He first met McGlohon at a vet-

erans' group meeting in 1998, and had him speak to a similar group at Fearington Village in 2008. It irritated Samuelson that somebody would dismiss the eyewitness account of a man who had given more than four years to military service.

Now on a quest, Samuelson started by consulting a general at the U.S. Naval Institute in Annapolis, who was intrigued enough to suggest other sources. Those led him to the National Museum of the United States Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, which took him to Maxwell Air Force Base, home of the Air Force Historical Research Agency, and to the National World War II Museum in New Orleans.

Samuelson has read stacks of books, spun through rolls of microfilm, spent hours interviewing World War II veterans, talking with museum curators and historians and studying flight logs of the 3rd Photo Squadron and other military minutia.

Here's what Samuelson found: On Aug. 6, 1945, McGlohon's photo reconnaissance unit was working out of Guam under the 8th Air Force, having been transferred from the 20th Air Force just three weeks before. The *Enola Gay*, stationed on nearby island of Tinian, was part of the 20th.

Before the bombing, an order was issued to the 20th Air Force barring its planes from flying within 50 miles of Hiroshima the morning of Aug. 6. McGlo-

hon's unit, now under the 8th Air Force, was not on the distribution list. Samuelson has a copy of the order.

He also has a copy of the flight's mission report, indicating the route the plane traveled that day and noting the rising cloud the crew had seen.

At the moment the bomb exploded, McGlohon and his crew were approaching Hiroshima at about 27,000 feet and flying at least 275 mph. They would have passed over the city before the mushroom cloud had time to reach their altitude, Samuelson says. McGlohon says his plane did not fly through the cloud.

The film McGlohon delivered to the lab was commingled with film from the *Enola Gay*'s reconnaissance plane and other photo planes that were sent toward Hiroshima later. Because McGlohon's plane wasn't supposed to be in the area, lab techs would not have known he took the picture. It is credited to a 20th Air Force plane that was actually miles away at the time.

If officials knew the photo was taken by a plane that was in the area by mistake, Samuelson believes they might have intentionally covered up the oversight to avoid having to explain it.

Clarence Becker, who was operations officer for the 3rd Photo Squadron, corroborates McGlohon's report.

"I sent them out that day," says the 91-year-old retired officer, now living in Reno, Nev. "We didn't know there was going to be an atomic bomb. I didn't even know what an atomic bomb was until that day."

Becker says he delivered a set of prints from the lab, including the one that McGlohon shot, to the general's quarters around midnight the night of the 6th.

A decade or so ago, Elmer Dixon gave his collection of wartime photos, including the one McGlohon says he shot, to the Historic Aviation Memorial Museum in Tyler, Texas.

Since Samuelson tracked down documentation for the McGlohon photo, it's been put on display in the Tyler museum, while thousands of others wait to be cataloged.

"Now that we know what it is," says Mike Burke, museum curator, "the only one we know of that's looking straight down at the cloud, it's more interesting. It's just something unique."

Whether McGlohon shot the photo, whether his crew was the only one to see the mushroom cloud from that vantage point, "doesn't change anything," he says. The story of the bomb was the awful damage it did, the deaths it caused and the deaths it may have prevented by hastening the war's end.

McGlohon defended his country. Thanks to Samuelson, he no longer has to defend his story.

Environment

‘Ridge-to-Reef’ program expands to Tinian

» Tinian children explore island’s conservation areas and sustainable farms in first Ridge to Reef camp on the island



In this file photo, students discover the coral gardens in the Sasanhaya Fish Reserve on Rota as part of the Ridge to Reef program. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TINIAN—Last week 28 Tinian students participated in the island’s first ever “Ridge to Reef” eco-camp. The activity-filled, three-day camp was open to students in the 4th to 6th grades, and introduced them to the “Ridge to Reef” concept.

“Ridge to Reef” is an educational program which takes learners out into the field and helps them understand and make the connection between land-based sources of pollution and coral reef health. It is sponsored by the CNMI Coral Reef Initiative through funding from

the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

On Tinian the camp began with an informative safety briefing from the Department of Public Safety Emergency Medical Services Division. Students then hiked through a limestone forest, visited a cattle farm and piggery (both of which implement environmentally friendly and sustainable practices), and snorkeled in the island’s marine protected area. Getting out into the field provided campers the opportunity to experience the camp’s

Ridge-to-Reef theme in a fun and hands-on environment.

Coordinated by the Division of Environmental Quality and Coastal Resources Management Office, the camp was a success due to the help and participation of partners on Tinian from NMC CREES 4H Youth Development Program, DPS-EMS, CNMI Public School System, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Americorps, the farms of Jesse Cruz and Sam Palacios and the National Park Service—American Memorial Park. (PR)

Building a greener house

A home’s impact on the environment can be reduced in many ways. Some elements of a greener house:

Site

Smaller, already developed, close to transit, work and shops

Insulation

Blown-in cellulose or fiberglass

Wood

Especially for exotics, choose Sustainable Forestry Council-certified wood

Roof

Metal instead of asphalt shingles

Siding

Fiber cement board, or reused wood shingles

Paint, finishes

Waterborne, low volatile organic compound (VOC) formulas

Heating

Natural-gas heat and an efficient heating system

Drainage

Barrels reduce water costs; rainwater can be reused for lawn, garden watering

Landscaping

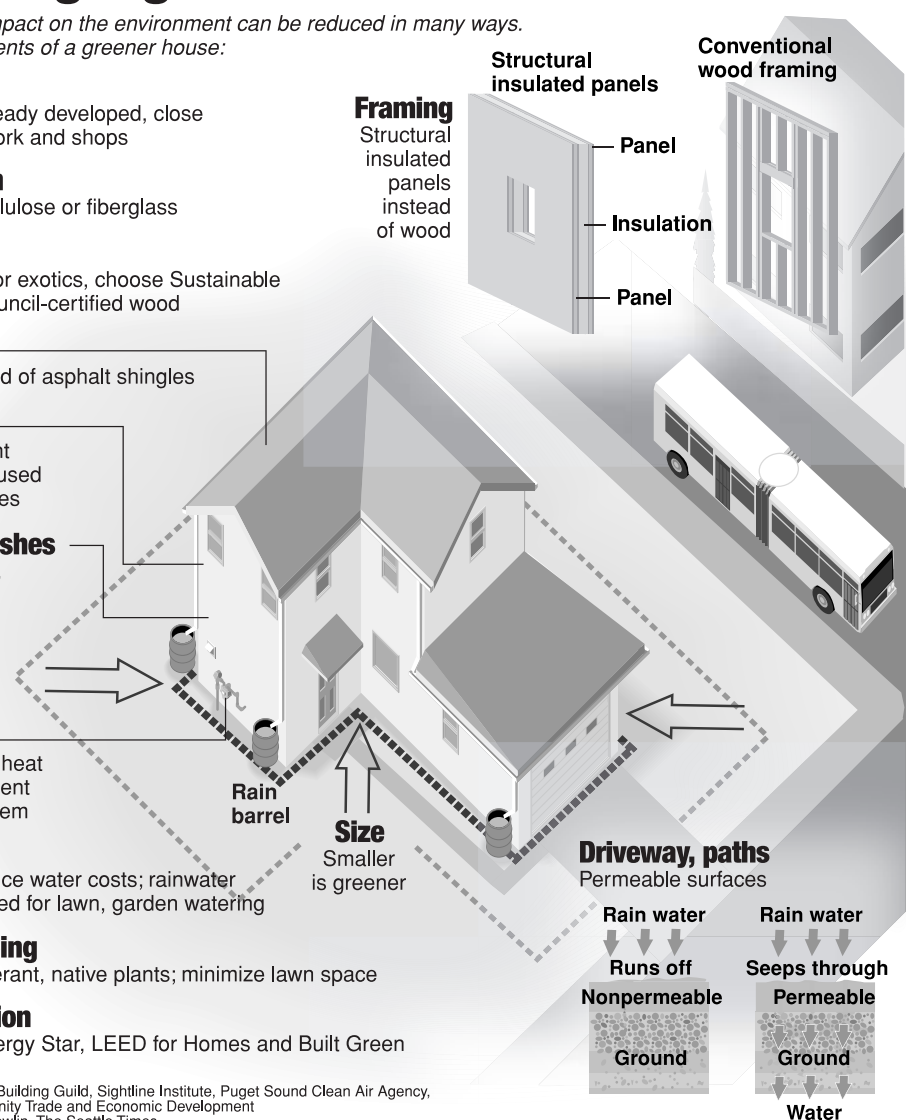
Drought-tolerant, native plants; minimize lawn space

Certification

Look for Energy Star, LEED for Homes and Built Green

© 2008 MCT

Source: NW EcoBuilding Guild, Sightline Institute, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, Office of Community Trade and Economic Development
Graphic: Mark Nowlin, The Seattle Times



First Friday Films gets dirty next Friday

September is fast approaching, and with it is the next film of the “First Friday Films” series. *Dirt! The Movie*, will be shown on Sept. 3, at the American Memorial Park Visitor’s Center at its new time of 6:30pm.

Official selection to the 2009 Sundance film festival, and winner of several awards (including Best Documentary at the Maui and “Visions/Voices” film festivals), *Dirt!* tells the story of Earth’s most valuable and under-appreciated resource, from its miraculous beginning to its crip-

pling degradation. The movie seeks to revolutionize the way we see dirt and raise awareness to the plight of one of our most important resources. Rather than simply bemoan the situation, *Dirt!* offers a myriad of actions that we can take as communities to promote the rebuilding of soil and the sustainable use of it, reminding us that “What we have destroyed, we can heal.”

Come before the movie at 6pm and learn more about soil through engaging exhibits on tree planting, composting, soil erosion

and sustainable farms from the CNMI Division of Agriculture, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality. After the film, free plants will be available to families while supplies last. These plants were generously provided by the CNMI Forestry office.

All “First Friday Films” are free and open to the public. For further information on this movie and upcoming events, visit: www.firstfridayfilmssaipan.blogspot.com. (PR)

How much hazardous waste are you storing?

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

We all have one—that shelf or cabinet with left-over paints, old bug killers, and unwanted cleaners. You don’t want that toxic stuff near your kids or pets so you keep it out of reach.

It’s equally as important to keep those dangerous chemicals out of the environment. So when it’s time to get rid of hazardous household items make sure you Do Your Part and do it the right way.

It’s estimated that every American home has an average of 100 pounds of hazardous household waste. This includes everything from paint and thinners to used motor oil, pesticides, bleach, cleaners, and even batteries. Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs) are also considered hazardous waste due to the small amount of mercury they contain.

Let’s start with what NOT to do when getting rid of all this stuff. Pouring hazardous household waste down any drain sends the toxins directly into our water supply.

Drains include the ones inside your home and the storm drains outside. Pollution flowing into storm drains is called storm water pollution and it’s the leading cause of fresh water pollution in America.

You should also never put hazardous household waste in the trash. Whether it’s sending it to

a landfill or burning it in a trash pile, both can release toxins directly into the air, land and water.

Hazardous household waste needs to be disposed of properly. This means taking it to a qualified recycling center and here’s an easy way to find one. Use Earth911.com. Simply type in the item you want to recycle and your ZIP code to get a list of locations that will accept your item.

You can also contact your county waste collection office for recycling information. Many communities hold hazardous household waste collection events throughout the year so be looking for those too.

Another way to reduce the amount of hazardous household waste in your home is to start buying less of it.

Many times there are natural alternatives that work just as well. Eco-friendly cleaners and pesticides are more widely available on store shelves and while they may cost more to purchase, keep in mind the true cost of an item is always more than just the money you spend. You can find recipes for natural and less toxic household cleaners and bug killers at DoYourPart.com/columns. Just because the hazardous household waste may be out of sight in your home, it shouldn’t be out of mind. Identifying it, disposing of it, and reducing the amount in your home are all easy ways to Do Your Part for everyday green living.



Community steps up, volunteers for Int’l Coastal Cleanup on Sept. 24-25

The CNMI Coastal Resources Management Office has been receiving a steady stream of International Coastal Cleanup registrations from government agencies, private organizations and clubs in the community.

“Though there are many beach areas still open for adoption, we are pleased with the initial interest the community has shown in the event,” says Saipan coordinator Rachel Zuercher.

The 2009 cleanup diverted hundreds of bags of trash from CNMI’s shoreline and disposed of the waste properly. This year,

on the 25th anniversary of the international event, CRM and DEQ are hoping to make an even larger impact.

“The event teaches the CNMI community that proper disposal of trash on land is extremely important to the health of the marine environment. What we throw on land ends up in our waterways and ocean,” says Rota coordinator Bill Pendergrass.

The event aims to highlight the impact that volunteers working over just a few hours can have on the state of our coastal areas.

The 2010 cleanup event will

be held on Friday, Sept. 24 and Saturday, Sept. 25, with groups volunteering over both days. Bags and gloves will be provided to volunteer groups by DEQ and CRM. Many of our island’s most pristine beach areas—Obyan Beach, Wing Beach, Forbidden Island, Old Man By The Sea, Bird Island—have yet to be adopted.

For further information or to register for the cleanup, contact Coastal Resources Management at 664-8305 (Saipan), 433-0494 (Tinian), 532-0466 (Rota) or email rachel.zuercher@crm.gov.mp. (PR)

Life & Style

Giovanni's will celebrate its 15th anniversary with a big bash this Friday, Aug. 27, 2010, from 6:30pm to 9:30pm, with the theme "Broadway, the American Musical."

At 15, Giovanni's still sets the bar high for posh dining

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For one with such impeccable pedigree, Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's is being made to endure a lot of unpleasant things arising from the CNMI's troubled economy—setbacks that one would not ask of any blue blood. But, like the epitome of elegance that it is, it has managed to make its stately way past the flotsam of failed restaurants to emerge even stronger at 15—a dignified age that has not dimmed Giovanni's star one whit as one of the best fine dining restaurants this side of the Pacific.

And at 15, Giovanni's is not done yet. It plans to celebrate its latest milestone with a big bash this Friday, Aug. 27, 2010, from 6:30pm to 9:30pm, with the theme "Broadway, the American Musical," transforming Giovanni's into a classic Broadway setting replete with musical entertainment provided by its in-house quartet, Star Society, and the sounds of Marion and Loreta.

Giovanni's loyal clientele will have a blast reliving timeless Broadway classics like *Mary Poppins* and *The West Side Story* while enjoying a standup cocktail party that will showcase a wide array of the restaurant's specialties, including popular Italian appetizers, and live stations such as its famous Angus beef station and a crepe station.

For the first time, Giovanni's will also feature a live station for Tiramisu, that most heavenly Italian dessert. Watch Giovanni's culinary team whip up from scratch a decadent cake dipped in coffee, layered with a whipped fusion of egg yolks and mascarpone, and intensely flavored with cocoa.

Guests will also be treated to a great selection of cocktails, wines, beers, and soft beverages courtesy of Pacific Wines and Spirits and Pacific Trading Co.

Besides the delectable Italian treat, Friday's guests will have a chance to win raffle door prizes, including spa treatments, room accommodations, and dinner packages.

'An achievement'

"Fifteen years is quite an achievement," says Giovanni's executive chef Gabriele Colombo. The chief *cuisinier*, who hails from the northern region of the charming European republic, has been in command of the culinary team that provides Giovanni's diners a "real

taste of Italian cuisine."

Indeed, Saipan's premier Italian restaurant takes pride in having an expertly trained Italian chef who serves up authentic, regional Italian cuisine since the onset of Giovanni's, adds Food & Beverage director Ranjeet Rajebhosale.

Albeit the concept has remained the same, Rajebhosale claims that Giovanni's has evolved through the years.

"Our endeavor has been to offer a lot of variety from different regions. The *a la carte* menu... is a good mix of regional cuisines in Italy," says Rajebhosale, adding that with Colombo on board, Giovanni's "has reached a new level" in the array of Italian fare it offers.

According to Colombo, a good chef should know how to infuse changes—welcome and acceptable—in the menu. When he joined Giovanni's in 2005, Colombo introduced his own style of cooking, one that is "very authentic, simple, basic Italian food."

Originating from Italy's northern region, Colombo specializes in Northern Italian such as risotto, polenta, and cheeses. Seafood is also a popular treat.

Colombo also takes into account specialties from other regions to offer diversity of choices to diners.

Whatever regional cuisine they prepare, Colombo says there is only one secret to the savory taste of Giovanni's dishes. "If you want to create good cuisine, you need good ingredients."

Colombo said their great selection of cheeses and other ingredients are sourced from Italy and go through the mainland. In addition, Colombo says they maintain a good base of supplier

for their local produce needs.

Being part of a group of swanky Hyatt restaurants, Rajebhosale admits that Giovanni's has been deemed an upscale place.

"It did have a reputation of being a fine dining restaurant, which it is not. It is more casual dining," reveals the F&B director.

According to Rajebhosale, diners can actually enjoy scrumptious, handmade Italian fares like pastas, risottos, and pizza that are cooked to home-style perfection the Giovanni's way.

Consistency

Despite the economic downturn, Rajebhosale firmly believes that Giovanni's has managed to sustain itself through the tough times because of its consistency in terms of the quality of the food and services they offer to their customers.

Rajebhosale avows that Giovanni's guests always get their money's worth every time they visit the restaurant.

Colombo, for his part, says his dedicated and talented team works together in being creative and innovative by always coming up with new dishes to keep its diners from getting bored.

The popularity of Giovanni's Sunday brunch from 10:30am to 2pm and their Italian lunch buffet every Friday called *Il Pranzo* from 11:30am to 2pm speaks for the culinary distinction of Giovanni's, says Rajebhosale.

"It only gets better every year," he adds.

Great expectations

Rajebhosale maintains that people on is-

land primarily have Giovanni's in mind when they think about celebrating special events and occasions.

"I think the core concept of the restaurant is we bring quality in terms of product and quality in terms of service delivery that is offered," he says, stressing that people expect them to continue to be the leading restaurant on the island.

"Being consistent is something that we like to do. That will be the way forward," he assures.

Although people come and go on Saipan, Rajebhosale takes pride in having maintained a consortium of regular customers, giving credit also to their very strong food and beverage loyalty program called Club at the Hyatt, which helps attract more guests.

"I think that Giovanni's has been successful to make sure and maintain those patrons," he adds.

Giovanni's & Teppanyaki restaurant manager Arnel Metran guarantees that they will maintain their high standards for their customers, even after 15 years.

"Thank you for your patronage and continued support. We will continue giving you the quality food and service you experience in your every visit to Giovanni's," he says.

Chef Colombo also urges their loyal patrons and the community to continue providing them the support they need to create an opportunity to showcase the best of Italian cuisine.

For reservations or more information regarding the 15th anniversary celebration, call 234-1234 Ext. 26.

FOR RESERVATIONS

Call 234-1234 Ext. 26

Douglas, ex clashing over 'Wall Street' cash in NY

NEW YORK (AP)—Michael Douglas' return to his Academy Award-winning "Wall Street" role also spawned a legal sequel to his decade-old divorce.

Lawyers representing the actor and ex-wife Diandra Douglas tangled in a New York court Tuesday over her claim that she's entitled to half his earnings from "Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps," set to open Sept. 24.

The dispute has featured accusations of avarice on both sides and an unusually detailed look at Hollywood-style divorce.

The couple's 23-year marriage ended in 2000. He's now married to Oscar-winning actress Catherine Zeta-Jones.

The former couple's multi-million-dollar divorce gives Diandra Douglas the right to

share in proceeds from spinoffs and other projects related to work Michael Douglas did while they were married.

That, her camp says, should include director Oliver Stone's "Wall Street" follow-up, in which Michael Douglas reprises and updates his Oscar-winning role as Gordon Gekko, the take-no-prisoners financier whose declaration that "greed is good" became either a slogan or an epithet for

the 1980s, depending on one's perspective.

But Michael Douglas' lawyer says his ex is misinterpreting the agreement, and it doesn't apply to the "Wall Street" sequel. It wasn't on the horizon when the two split, and he didn't then have so much as a guarantee that he'd be in a sequel if one were ever

made, said his lawyer, Marilyn B. Chinitz.

Since their divorce, Diandra Douglas has made \$6.3 million from her stake in residual proceeds from other past projects, Chinitz said.

"When does it stop? ... She's not Mrs. Michael Douglas" anymore, Chinitz told a Manhattan judge Tuesday. "It's enough. It's time for Ms. Douglas to move on and let Mr. Douglas move on and enjoy his life, without having to concern himself with someone trying to claw back moneys that they're not entitled to."

Diandra Douglas' lawyer says her client isn't money-hungry and isn't clinging to her ex-husband's coattails.

"She has her own identity, and she's proud of it," said her lawyer, Nancy Chentob. "My client is not greedy. The exact opposite is true. Mr. Douglas is seeking to shirk his financial responsibility

that was entered into when he signed this contract."

Michael Douglas' side also says the dispute belongs in Santa Barbara, Calif., where the couple hammered out a divorce agreement so extensive that the particulars are recorded in an hours-long videotape made before a judge, according to Chinitz.

Diandra Douglas chose to pursue the case in New York,

where she and the actor both have homes. Neither Douglas was in court Tuesday. State Supreme Court Justice Matthew F. Cooper didn't issue a ruling or set a timeframe for one.

Insights into the former couple's life together were bared earlier this year, when their son, Cameron, faced sentencing after pleading guilty to a federal drug charge for dealing methamphet-

amine from a trendy Manhattan hotel. In a letter to his son's judge, Michael Douglas described their union as a "bad marriage."

Both parents were in court when Cameron Douglas, 31, was sentenced in April to five years in prison.

Michael Douglas, 65, was recently diagnosed with a tumor in his throat. He's doing well and feeling optimistic, Chinitz said.



Douglas

FIVE YEARS LATER

Newseum in DC retells Katrina story

WASHINGTON (AP)—Jarring headlines from the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina said it all: "Catastrophic," "Hitting Bottom," "Help Us, Please."

Five years later, the Newseum on Friday will open a special, one-year exhibit, "Covering Katrina," that explores and explains how journalists reported on the disaster and its aftermath.

The Newseum assembled the accounts and belongings of journalists, newspaper stories and artifacts from the Louisiana State Museum for what curators believe is the first major exhibit on news coverage of Katrina.

About 80 front pages from around the world show how the story unfolded as the storm bore down on Louisiana and Mississippi—and what followed. At the time, newspapers and TV reporters were the only link between the people needing help and the government that could provide it.

"It puts you right there in the middle of the storm," Newseum chief executive Charles Overby said of the exhibit. "As you recall, the government was slow to respond, but the media wasn't."

The museum about news and the First Amendment also produced a film offering reflections from TV journalists as well as two newspapers that shared the 2006 Pulitzer Prize for public service for their Katrina coverage—the New Orleans Times-Picayune and the Sun Herald of Biloxi and Gulfport, Miss.

The exhibit includes a Gulf Coast map from the Sun Herald newsroom with pins confirming the dead in Mississippi, an anti-looter sign from a New Orleans shop and a rusty ax used by a journalist to break into a

colleague's home to rescue pets.

There's even a kayak deployed by a photographer to navigate flooded New Orleans streets and two bicycles used by reporters to first discover the levees had been breached.

"In that flash of a moment, they both realize that we're doomed," Times-Picayune Editor Jim Amoss said in the Newseum film. "The water has broken through the flood walls and that the oceans are rushing into this city."

Editor Stan Tiner at the Sun Herald explains on film that Katrina brought an urgent demand for information. He recalled people leaving a water line when the newspaper truck arrived to clamor for a paper. "One of the most righteous jobs we did was to deliver the paper," Tiner said.

Much of the exhibit focuses on how journalists at the two prize-winning papers overcame enormous challenges and risks to inform the public and hold government accountable.

"Even when their families were in peril and their homes were being destroyed, they continued being journalists," said Susan Bennett, the Newseum's exhibit chief.

The exhibit includes reflections from such familiar journalists as NBC's Brian Williams, Shepard Smith of FOX News and ABC's Robin Roberts, who went searching for her mother and family while reporting from Mississippi's coast.

A longer, 30-minute film will play in the museum's Documentary Theater with sounds from inside the Louisiana Superdome as the storm beat down and later, the crowds chanting, "Help! Help! Help!"



AP

A search mark painted by first responders on a property, a sign warning against looters, and photographs are on display at the Newseum in Washington, for their exhibit on press coverage of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2010.

Lithuanian firm sued for holding beauty pageant

VILNIUS, Lithuania (AP)—Move over Miss Universe—make way for Mrs. Universe.

It might sound like a nifty promotional idea for a small East European country like Lithuania, but owners of the Miss Universe trademark—entrepreneur Donald Trump and NBC Universal—aren't amused.

The U.S.-based Miss Universe Organization L.P. filed suit Tuesday in a Lithuanian court claiming copyright violation by the organizers of the Mrs. Universe pageant that was held Saturday in the Baltic state.

"Our claim is very simple. The title was used illegally because all rights belong to the U.S.-based company," Erikas

Saukalas, a lawyer representing Miss Universe Organization L.P., told reporters in Vilnius.

"We will also demand compensation for losses. I believe the court will evaluate the damage done to this trademark," Saukalas said, adding that the size of losses was still being calculated.

The organizer of the Mrs. Universe pageant, which was shown live on TV3, a regional cable TV channel, denied any wrongdoing.

"Universe is a generic word, so the U.S. company's claims are ungrounded," said Evelina Gruzdiene, director of pageant organizer Pramogu Akademija.

Jennika Hannusaari of Finland won the Mrs. Universe pageant, which featured com-

petitors from 22 countries such as Venezuela and Armenia. As the name suggests, all contestants had to be married.

On Monday a 22-year-old Mexico woman, Jimena Navarrete, was crowned Miss Universe in a Las Vegas show that boasted 83 contestants.

One of the main thrusts of the Lithuanian pageant was awareness of human trafficking, which continues to plague many East European countries. Participants held a discussion on the topic in Lithuania's government, which helped sponsor the pageant, and presented a project, "Beauty Against Human Trafficking," as a possible idea to combat the problem.

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Piranha
 Friday 4:30 7:30 10:00
 Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:00
 Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
 Mon through Thurs 4:30 7:30
Elisabeth Shue, Adam Scott
 Horror • Rated R

Synopsis

Haute Tension and Hills Have Eyes director Alexandre Aja pays homage to the films that made him fall in love with the horror genre by helming this comedic remake of director Joe Dante's 1978 Jaws parody.



Vampires Suck
 Friday 4:15 7:15 9:45
 Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:45
 Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
 Mon through Thurs 4:15 7:15
Matt Lanter, Chris Riggi
 Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Vampires Suck is a comedy about contemporary teen angst and romance movies. Becca, an anxious, non-vampire teen, is torn between two boys. Before she can choose, Becca must get around her controlling father, who embarrasses Becca by treating her like a child. Meanwhile, Becca's friends content with their own romantic issues — all of which collide at the prom.



The Expendables
 Friday 4:10 7:20 9:30
 Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:20 9:30
 Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:20
 Mon through Thurs 4:10 7:20
Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham
 War • Rated R



Scott Pilgrim Versus The World
 Friday 4:05 7:05 9:40
 Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:40
 Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
 Mon through Thurs 4:05 7:05
Michael Cera, Chris Evans
 Adventure • Rated PG 13



Salt
 Friday 4:25 7:25 9:55
 Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:55
 Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
 Mon through Thurs 4:25 7:25
Angelina Jolie, Liev Schreiber
 Thriller • Rated PG 13



The Other Guys
 Friday 4:20 7:10 9:35
 Saturday 1:10 4:20 7:10 9:35
 Sunday 1:10 4:20 7:10
 Mon through Thurs 4:20 7:10
Mark Wahlberg, Will Farrell
 Comedy • Rated PG 13



Inception
 Friday 7:00 9:50
 Saturday 7:00 9:50
 Sunday 7:00
 Mon through Thurs 7:00
Leonardo DiCaprio, Marion Cotillard
 Action, Science Fiction • Rated PG 13



Cats and Dogs: Revenge of Kitty Galore
 Friday 4:00
 Saturday 1:00 4:00
 Sunday 1:00 4:00
 Mon through Thurs 4:00
Alec Baldwin, Chris O'Donnell
 Children's, Family • Rated PG

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George Michael pleads guilty to drug offenses

By JILL LAWLESS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LONDON (AP)—It was a slow-motion car crash—a handy metaphor for George Michael's career.

The multimillion-selling singer was warned Tuesday that he may face jail time after driving his car into a London photo shop while under the influence of drugs.

It was the latest in a string of bizarre automotive and drug-related mishaps that have raised fears for Michael's safety, but done little to dent the 47-year-old's iconic status, which endures more than two decades after he released his best-selling records.

Michael was mobbed by several dozen photographers Tuesday as he arrived at London's Highbury Corner Magistrates Court, where he admitted driving under the influence of drugs and possession of cannabis.

He was charged after plowing his Range Rover into a branch of Snappy Snaps in Hampstead, north London, in the wee hours of July 4. The dent in the wall is still visible, and someone has added one word of graffiti: Wham.

The car's engine was still running when police arrived, but Michael had to be roused, police said. They described Michael as appearing "spaced out."

"Mr. Michael looked at the officer with his eyes wide open and the officers could see his pupils were dilated," said prosecutor Penny Fergusson. "They opened the door and could see he was dripping with sweat."

Prosecutors said Michael acknowledged smoking marijuana and taking a prescription sedative.

The former Wham! lead singer, booked under his real name of Georgios Panayiotou, spoke only to confirm his identity and plead guilty to driving while unfit.

Judge Robin McPhee banned Michael from driving for six months, and warned he could face jail time when he is sentenced Sept. 14.



AP
British singer George Michael arrives at Highbury Corner Magistrates Court in north London for his hearing on charge with driving under the influence of drugs after he smashed his car into a high street shop, Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2010.

"It is a serious matter. Your driving was extremely poor and there was an accident," McPhee said, adding that Michael has already had one conviction. "I make it clear all options in respect of sentencing remain open, including powers to imprison."

Michael and cars have a checkered history. In February 2006, he was found slumped at the wheel of his car at London's busy Hyde Park Corner. That April, he hit three parked cars while trying to maneuver out of a parking space, and admitted being "a terrible driver."

In October 2006, he was found slumped over the wheel of his car, which was blocking an intersection. He pleaded guilty to driving while unfit through drugs and was sentenced to community service.

Last year, he was involved in a late-night crash with a truck outside London. Michael released a statement stressing he was "stone cold sober" at the time.

"The man could solve all his problems by getting a chauffeur," said Neil McCormick, rock critic for the Daily Telegraph newspaper.

Michael has an acknowledged fondness for marijuana, and also said in a 2007 television interview that he was addicted to prescription drugs. At the time, he blamed his erratic behavior to an attention-seeking and "self-destructive" impulse brought on by the death of his mother a decade earlier.

None of it has dented his status as a musical icon—and a survivor.

Michael gained mega-stardom in his early 20s as half of Wham! and went on to a successful solo career. His first solo album, 1987's "Faith," has sold 20 million copies.

His sexuality became public in 1998 when he was arrested for lewd conduct in a public toilet in Los Angeles after being spotted by a male undercover police officer.

Michael went on to release a single and video, "Outside," that poked fun at his arrest.

His recent albums have not matched the sales of his early work, but his first tour in 15 years, in 2006, was a sellout.

At Tuesday's court appearance, the public gallery was filled with fans who shouted out "you're an inspiration" and "I love you" and asked for autographs as he left the courtroom.

McCormick said Michael's legacy as an artist, and an influence on other musicians, is secure.

"It's not only him who's not going to sell as many records as he did in the 80s—nobody's going to sell as many records as anybody did in the 80s," McCormick said.

"He seems incredibly together. He has a sense of humor, he looks pretty healthy and he has a good idea of himself, what he means and what his life is in this post-superstar fame world that drives people mad."

Springsteen heads to film fest for 'Darkness' doc

TORONTO (AP)—Bruce Springsteen is heading to the Toronto International Film Festival for the world premiere of a documentary about one of his classic 1970s albums. "The Promise: The Making of 'Darkness on the Edge of Town'" by director Thom Zimny premieres Sept. 14 at the festival. The film includes new interviews of Springsteen and the E Street Band, along with footage of home rehearsals and recording sessions shot from 1976-78. At the festival, Springsteen also will participate in a discussion moderated by actor Edward Norton about the documentary and the relationship between his music and American filmmaking. The Toronto festival, one of the world's biggest film showcases, runs Sept. 9-19.

Status hearing set in Lindsay Lohan probation case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A status hearing will be held in Lindsay Lohan's probation case amid unconfirmed reports that she could be released early from rehab. Court officials had said Superior Court Judge Elden Fox planned to issue a ruling Tuesday, but spokesman Allan Parachini later said any ruling would be issued after the hearing set for Wednesday. The actress is not required to attend the hearing. Lohan has been in an inpatient program since Aug. 2, serving a court-ordered 90-day stay. She went to rehab after spending 14 days in jail for a probation violation in a 2007 drug case. Fox is now handling the case after taking over for another judge.

Faith Hill in concert in La. for Katrina's victims

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Country music star Faith Hill says giving back just comes naturally for the Mississippi native, and she has a message for those still recovering from Hurricane Katrina. "We are here for you still and you are not forgotten," Hill said before headlining a free concert Tuesday evening in New Orleans to support those still rebuilding five years later. She says the evening at the Mahalia Jackson Theater was intended to celebrate how far the Gulf Coast has come since the 2005 storm flooded New Orleans and surrounding areas of Louisiana and Mississippi. "I feel like it's my responsibility to give back," Hill said. "When you've been given so much, it's only right that I do what I can to help, if I can."

Obamas head out for dinner with Vernon Jordan

WEST TISBURY, Mass. (AP)—President Barack Obama is resorting to dinner out as an antidote to the steady rains and lashing winds overshadowing his Martha's Vineyard vacation. After a gloomy day inside, the president and first lady Michelle Obama were joined at the State Road restaurant with Washington power broker Vernon Jordan and his wife, Ann, as well as Chicago friends Eric and Cheryl Whitaker. White House senior adviser Valerie Jarrett also joined the group. On Monday, the Obamas also broke away from their rented farm for dinner in Oak Bluffs. The bad weather has caused power outages on the island, wreaked havoc on air transportation and forced ferry cancellations. Obama is due to stay on the island until Sunday.

Wife attests bald-headed men are smooth operators

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I had to chuckle at the letter from "Smooth-Headed in Tampa" (June 28), who complained that shallow women won't date a bald man. He hit the nail on the head with the term "shallow."

My husband is bald, but I didn't realize it when I first met him because he always wore a ball cap. We had gone to school together many years earlier, and he had thick, wavy hair then. When he took his cap off, I only hesitated for a second, remembering a lesson my father had taught me: "Never judge a book by its cover."

I'm so glad I heeded my dad's advice. We've been married 11 years and are more in love with each other now than when we married.

Please tell "Smooth-Headed" that not all women are shallow. He wouldn't want a woman like that, anyway. Besides, those women have no idea what they're missing. I keep threatening to get my husband that T-shirt that reads, "This Isn't a Bald Head, It's a Solar Panel for a Sex Machine," but he says he doesn't want to spill the beans!

LOVE HIS CHROME DOME

DEAR LOVE: Thank you for the encouraging words for "Smooth-Headed." If the enthusiasm from my readers who love and/or prefer bald men is any indication, "Smooth" has been worrying needlessly. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I happen to absolutely go nuts over bald or balding men. I find nothing sexier. I can spot a bald man a mile off, and in my eyes there is no one else who compares. It may be because ever since I can remember, my father has been balding.

It makes no difference to me whether a man has little or no hair, is tall or short, thin or heavy. It is what's on the inside that counts. Any man bold enough to shave his head or not cover it with a ball cap is tops in my book. (My favorite actor is Vin Diesel.)

OUT THERE LOOKING

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Doesn't "Smooth" know that bald is the new "sexy"? If he is uncomfortable with his hairline, he should see a barber or stylist who can make what hair he has "hot." Every head can look good.

I have happily dated men with receding hairlines and shaved heads. "Smooth" just needs to find a real woman who's interested in who he is, not what's growing or not growing on top of his head.

NOT BALDPHOBIC IN MASSACHUSETTS

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: You are correct that plenty of women will date balding men. Aside from your assertion that we are the smart ones who see beyond the surface, balding is supposed to be a sign of virility.

I do have one question for "Smooth-Headed": Are you willing to date women who are less than supermodels? Many women I know, myself included, are smart, funny and sexy, but have been spurned because we are slightly overweight. What I have learned is that people who sit around whining about the opposite sex being shallow should review their own biases and unrealistic expectations. Who might you be overlooking, Mr. "Smooth"?

BIG AND BEAUTIFUL IN SOUTH DAKOTA

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am in a loving, happy relationship with my 26-year-old boyfriend who has male-pattern baldness. We met through Internet dating, and "Smooth" should give it a try. Potential dates read about your interests and personality at the same time they see your photos. They'll start to know you before they meet you.

My advice to balding men: Don't be ashamed. "Own" your baldness. My boyfriend does. And his self-confidence makes him even more attractive to me.

HAPPY HONEY TO A BALDING BABE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Police: Intruder arrested at Paris Hilton's home

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A man has been arrested at Paris Hilton's Los Angeles home after the socialite said he tried to break into her house while holding two big knives. Police Officer Gregory Baek says the man was arrested about 6:30 a.m. Tuesday but his name hasn't been released. Hilton said on her Twitter page: "So Scary, just got woken up to a guy trying to break into my house holding 2 big knives. Cops are here arresting him." Baek couldn't confirm if the man was armed. Baek says the break-in was reported by telephone but he didn't know if it came from Hilton or an alarm company. Hilton posted a photo on Twitter of police arresting the man.

Cee-Lo's vitriolic video on YouTube goes viral

NEW YORK (AP)—A catchy but expletive-laden new song from Cee-Lo has quickly gone viral. The title includes an expletive but racked up more than 1.8 million views by Tuesday afternoon after being posted last week on Cee-Lo's YouTube page. Cee-Lo is best known as half of the duo Gnarls Barkley. The video is merely a colorful stream of the song's lyrics but has created a stir nonetheless. The song bounces to an up-tempo, '50s soul beat, but the lyrics are a message to a gold-digging ex-girlfriend. A clean version has played on British radio with the words "forget you" substituted. Cee-Lo tweeted that "a bit of history" had been made with the song and that he was "amazed." It has already spawned mash-up videos and a response featuring 50 Cent. Cee-Lo has promised a full video ahead of his solo album, "The Ladykiller," due out this year.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



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By Jim Davis



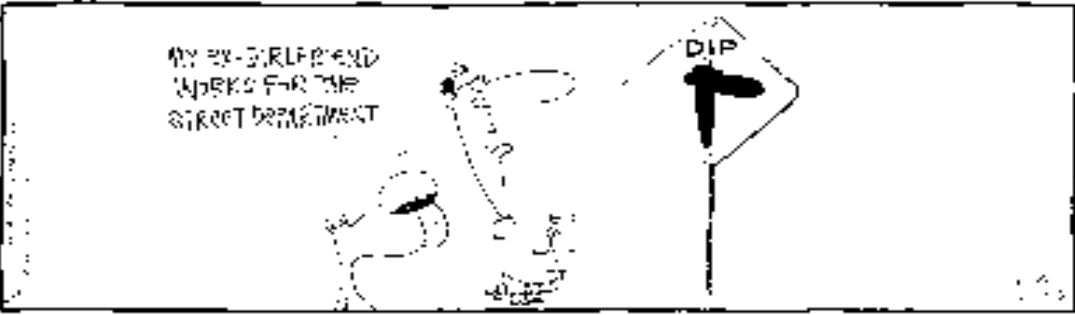
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Willy Wonka's creator
5 U.K. liars
8 Hunchy's perch
12 Dr. song
13 I have a bug
14 Do as you're told
15 Wine measures
16 So soon
17 Put together
18 Triceps
20 Biscuit
22 Energy
26 Corn
29 Cowboy nickname
30 How big
31 Actress Jessica
32 Unordered
33 Initial stake
34 Over
35 Bobby of hockey
36 Fushich ones

DOWN

1 Most
2 Largest continent
3 Aid
4 Trust for
5 Marnie
6 Melody
7 Failed on
8 1961
9 Groups in the lunch
10 Started
11 Canine
12 Navy
13 Q1
14 course
15 For fear
16 That
17 Drivers
18 1991
19 receipt
20 Trainers
21 Content
22 Ingredient
23 Hospice
24 Kidnapper
25 Reading
26 Mailer
27 Blind
28 Unfriendly
29 Resistant
30 Dance
31 unit
32 Census
33 statistic
34 Hereditary
35 status
36 perhaps
37 Pharmacist
38 Heavy
39 reading
40 hasn't
41 paid yet
42 Carry
43 on
44 Choral
45 lyricist
46 Game
47 track
48 Challenged

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 2/25

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Keke Palmer, 17; Macaulay Culkin, 30; Chris Pine, 30; Branford Marsalis, 50

Happy Birthday: A window of opportunity exists that can change your life forever. Partnerships, money and the wisdom to make the right choices are within reach. An all-out effort to be the best you can be creatively, intellectually and physically will lead you into interesting financial investments. Utilizing your talents to the fullest will allow you to get ahead doing something you enjoy. Your numbers are 3, 10, 18, 21, 35, 38, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't stop believing in your ability. Love is on the rise. Meeting new people will lead to someone worth knowing. If you are in a relationship, it will be easy to please the one you love.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will discover very quickly how to go about getting what you want. Your ability to apply practicality to anything you pursue will ensure success. The more you interact with others, the closer you will come to finding what works best for you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Donations or giving too much of your time will not pay off. Someone will try to take advantage of you. Invest more time in yourself and the things that will help you advance. Love and romance will take over as the day progresses.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can raise your awareness and your status both personally and professionally. A problem with friends, children or a lover will slow you

down if you let it. Bypass anyone giving you ultimatums.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take a trip, make a residential move or plan something special with someone you love. Don't miss out on happiness because you are intent on getting ahead. The more you socialize with people in your industry, the better you will do and the more you will prosper.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): An inside look at an investment that has the potential to make money will tempt you. Don't spend what you don't have. Small steps will lead to greater prosperity in the end. A partnership is apparent.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't let depression set in. If you take responsibility for your actions and are willing to admit when you are wrong, you can spare yourself a lot of turmoil. Don't initiate changes at home but be willing to accept the inevitable.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): The creative outlets you indulge in will be more profitable than you imagined. Favors will be granted if you ask. You have plenty to accomplish, so don't put your project on the back burner for someone else's sake.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let your emotions take over. If you worry about something or someone you are close to, you will miss an important opportunity. Your need for excitement will cost you personally and professionally.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You have

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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more going for you than you realize. You may want to rework some of the connections you have. It may be time to incorporate new blood into your roster of friends, peers and colleagues.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A financial, contractual or personal opportunity appears to be heading in your direction. Make an agreement with someone who will help you prosper emotionally and financially. An unusual individual will interest you in ways you have not experienced in the past.

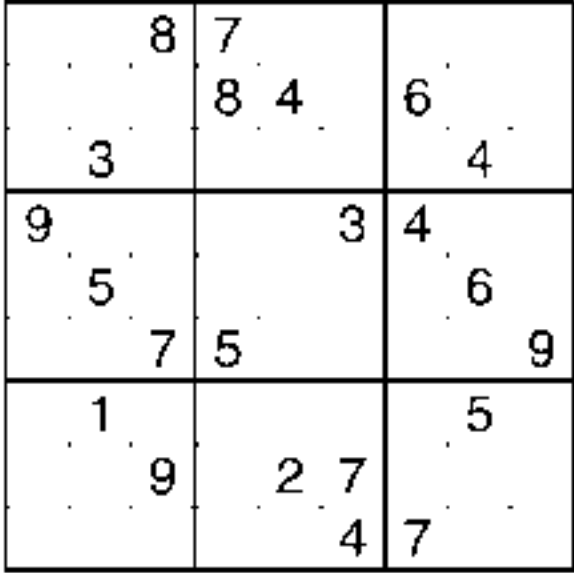
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be the driving force in any partnership you take on. Lay down ground rules if you want to control the outcome. Know what you want and spell out it out. When it comes to love, don't fall for someone who's off-limits.

Birthday Baby: You are a great friend and companion. You are aggressive but sentimental and caring. You are responsible and strive to be your best. Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer



WONDERWORD

By David Gullett

How to play: Choose a word from the list below. The word must be at least 4 letters long and must contain at least one of the letters in the word WONDERWORD.

WONDERWORD: W O N D E R W O R D



Answers: 1. Wonderword, 2. Wonder, 3. Word, 4. Wonder, 5. Word, 6. Wonder, 7. Word, 8. Wonder, 9. Word, 10. Wonder, 11. Word, 12. Wonder, 13. Word, 14. Wonder, 15. Word, 16. Wonder, 17. Word, 18. Wonder, 19. Word, 20. Wonder, 21. Word, 22. Wonder, 23. Word, 24. Wonder, 25. Word, 26. Wonder, 27. Word, 28. Wonder, 29. Word, 30. Wonder, 31. Word, 32. Wonder, 33. Word, 34. Wonder, 35. Word, 36. Wonder, 37. Word, 38. Wonder, 39. Word, 40. Wonder, 41. Word, 42. Wonder, 43. Word, 44. Wonder, 45. Word, 46. Wonder, 47. Word, 48. Wonder, 49. Word, 50. Wonder, 51. Word, 52. Wonder, 53. Word, 54. Wonder, 55. Word, 56. Wonder, 57. Word, 58. Wonder, 59. Word, 60. Wonder, 61. Word, 62. Wonder, 63. Word, 64. Wonder, 65. Word, 66. Wonder, 67. Word, 68. Wonder, 69. Word, 70. Wonder, 71. Word, 72. Wonder, 73. Word, 74. Wonder, 75. Word, 76. Wonder, 77. Word, 78. Wonder, 79. Word, 80. Wonder, 81. Word, 82. Wonder, 83. Word, 84. Wonder, 85. Word, 86. Wonder, 87. Word, 88. Wonder, 89. Word, 90. Wonder, 91. Word, 92. Wonder, 93. Word, 94. Wonder, 95. Word, 96. Wonder, 97. Word, 98. Wonder, 99. Word, 100. Wonder.

STUMPED?

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Doctors clear Yao for basketball activities



HOUSTON (AP)—Houston Rockets All-Star center Yao Ming is confident that he'll be ready for the start of the regular season after a team doctor declared his surgically repaired foot fully healed.

Yao missed last season after undergoing complex surgery on his left foot in July 2009. Team doctor Tom Clanton has cleared Yao to resume basketball activities.

The Rockets had said all along that they expected Yao to play in 2010-11. Yao was still relieved when he got the official diagnosis.

"I am very excited," Yao said Tuesday. "I am just looking forward to playing a great season. I think I can count on my foot now."

The 7-foot-6 Yao sweated through a gray T-shirt during a vigorous workout for reporters at the Toyota Center. He mostly worked on post moves with teammate Chuck Hayes and 7-footer James Cripe, a player in the NBA's developmental league.

He landed awkwardly on his left foot at one point, wincing in pain. He resumed the workout a few seconds later, and said he's less afraid to test the foot than he was two months ago, when he started running again.

"That's just the confidence," Yao said. "I think everybody would have that after a foot injury, and (I'm) just still a little bit weak on that. I just need to continue to build on that. Compared to two months ago, it's really a lot better."

General manager Daryl Morey says the team will be cautious with Yao and



Houston Rockets center Yao Ming, right, of China, talks with a reporter after a basketball workout Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2010 in Houston.

limit his minutes early in the season. Morey said Clanton's diagnosis was a "key hurdle" in Yao's road back.

"It's great news," Morey said. "It's what we anticipated, but until you get

over these milestones, you're never for sure. He looks like his old self. He still has a ways to go on his wind and things like that. But it's just good to see him out there."

Early in his recovery, Yao had doubts about his future. In the month after he was told that he would likely miss the 2009-10 season, Yao said he secluded himself and hoped to find out later that the doc-

tors had somehow made a mistake.

"That was really a hard month for me," Yao said. "I got a lot of phone calls from the Rockets staff, coaches, players, teammates and my friends and of course, my family will always be there to stay with me."

"That was the hardest time, (and it's) already passed. Now, we're looking forward and making something good."

The Rockets open training camp on Sept. 25. They will travel to China in mid-October for two preseason games against New Jersey.

At this point, Yao seems more concerned about rebuilding his stamina than re-injuring his foot. He said he's lost 40 pounds in the last 3 1/2 months, and still wants to lose 10-15 more pounds before the regular season begins.

"I'm really, really not in good shape right now," he said. "I'm probably a little bit away from game shape. The good news is we still have one month until training camp, and two months to the season."

A seven-time All-Star, Yao has averaged 19.1 points and 9.3 rebounds in seven seasons since the Rockets drafted him with the No. 1 overall pick in 2002.

Yao, who turns 30 on Sept. 12, said he's fought the urge to push himself too hard as he tries to regain his old form. The Rockets' medical staff advised Yao throughout his recovery that he needed to scale back his workouts.

"The doctors say, 'No, you need to slow down,'" he said. "'Step by step, you need to learn walking before you start running.' That's what they said. They said I've got to be patient with it. But I'm very happy."

Cowher: Roethlisberger finally showing maturity



NEW YORK (AP)—Former Pittsburgh Steelers coach Bill Cowher says it was hard to get through to Ben Roethlisberger after the quarterback had so much success early in his career.

Yet Cowher believes the sexual assault investigation that led to a six-game suspension for Roethlisberger was a "slap in the face" that has led to some much-needed maturity.

In an interview with The Associated Press on Tuesday, Cowher described how Roethlisberger used to respond to advice about his off-field behavior. "But we're winning games. We're winning championships," Cowher recounted. "What do you mean? Isn't that what we're here to do?"

"Yeah," Cowher said, "but there's more to it than that."

"It's the whole body of work. It's you as a person, what kind of legacy you want to leave," he added. "I really think he understands that now."

Cowher coached Roethlisberger during the quarterback's first three seasons—in Year 2, he became the youngest at the position to win a Super Bowl. Roethlisberger picked up another ring under Mike Tomlin after Cowher retired, only to put his stellar career in jeopardy.

Roethlisberger was not charged after a Georgia college student accused him of sexual assault, but commissioner Roger Goodell still suspended him for the first six games of the season, citing a "pattern of behavior" embarrassing to the NFL.

Roethlisberger has said Cowher was one of the people he turned to for advice as he tried to get his life back on

track, and that the two are now closer than ever before.

"Just like with your children, sometimes when you say things to them: 'Yeah, right.' They have all the answers," Cowher said. "All of a sudden, the older they get: 'Maybe he's right about that.'"

"I think Ben has had a chance to reflect a lot. I think he's a good person. While it's unfortunate, I think it may be an eye-opener to him, kind of a slap in the face."

Before the Georgia case, there were earlier incidents, too. Roethlisberger was badly injured in a motorcycle accident while riding without a helmet or a permit after his first Super Bowl victory in 2006. He also is being sued by a woman who says he raped her in 2008 at a Lake Tahoe hotel-casino. Roethlisberger denies the accusation and was not charged. He has claimed counter-damages in a lawsuit.

Some people mature later than others, Cowher said, and he believes Roethlisberger is a late bloomer.

"There's no question as a player he's always been a great player," Cowher said. "But there's a lot more to this professionally than that. It's how you carry yourself off the field. I think he realizes that now. I really think you're going to see a different person."

Even without Roethlisberger to start the season, Cowher thinks his former team will be just fine because the coaches have time to prepare for the suspension, which could be reduced to four games.

"I know a lot of players on that team. They need to hear that they can't do

something," Cowher said. "That always seems to be the impetus to say, 'OK, we'll show you.'"

Since Cowher retired after the 2006 season, the rest of the NFL has wondered whether he'll show he can coach again. His name seems to come up whenever there is an opening, and Cowher isn't going to quell that talk.

"I certainly will look into situations with open ears," he said.

For now, he's an analyst for CBS, which allows him to stay close to the game if he does choose to coach again—or lets him fulfill his football cravings without returning to the field. At the network's NFL media day Tuesday, he said his new colleagues have become family, just like it was with the Steelers, and he'd only leave for an ideal situation.

"I'm not sitting there lobbying for any one team," Cowher said. "You know what? I always thought, you'll know. When the time comes, you'll know. Right now the season's starting, and my thoughts aren't on coaching. My thoughts are on trying to give great coverage."

The familiarity of football season offers comfort for Cowher, whose wife, Kaye, died of skin cancer a month ago. Cowher said he never considered taking time off.

"As all our family's doing right now, we're all kind of moving on with our lives. It's the way my wife would have wanted it," he said. "I'm just very thankful for everybody in America who reached out, sent e-mails, texts, the donations they've made to a couple of charities. It's been very heartfelt, very sincere. I couldn't be more grateful."

NFL BRIEFS

NFL fines Ochocinco for timing of Twitter use

CINCINNATI (AP)—The National Football League has fined wide receiver Chad Ochocinco \$25,000 for the timing of his tweets. The league said Tuesday that Ochocinco's messages appeared on his Twitter page during a prohibited time at the Cincinnati Bengals versus Philadelphia Eagles preseason game on Friday night. It said the Bengal player violated policies on electronic device possession and posting of social media messages. The use of cell phones, computers or other electronic equipment by players and coaches is prohibited from 90 minutes before kickoff through the end of the game. The NFL's statement said Ochocinco's messages on the social media site showed up at 6:50 p.m. and 9:53 p.m. Kickoff was 8:07. Ochocinco apologized—how else?—through Twitter. "I won't do it again," he tweeted. Bengals players were off Tuesday.

Raiders' McFadden returns to practice

NAPA, Calif. (AP)—Oakland Raiders running back Darren McFadden practiced for the first time in more than two weeks Tuesday and expects to make his preseason debut this weekend against San Francisco. McFadden ran with the Raiders' first team offense, breaking off two long runs during a team scrimmage then later hauling in a deep pass from quarterback Jason Campbell in a 7-on-7 drill. That was encouraging

for Oakland, which lost Chaz Schilens indefinitely after the third-year receiver had arthroscopic surgery on his left knee. No timetable has been set for his return. McFadden is projected to be the Raiders' No. 1 running back this year but had not practiced since Aug. 7 when he pulled up with a sore hamstring during the team's morning practice. McFadden sat out Oakland's first two preseason games while Michael Bush, Rock Cartwright and Michael Bennett split the carries in the backfield.

Gore eager to see preseason action for Niners

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—Mike Singletary wants to see what the 49ers offense can do with Pro Bowl running back Frank Gore on the field. So does Gore. "I'm itching to get at it," Gore said early Tuesday evening after the 49ers returned to practice after an off day Monday. "I want to get out there and play with my team. I'm ready to hit." The 49ers have held out their star halfback in preseason victories over Indianapolis and Minnesota. But Gore may finally get some action in Sunday's exhibition at Oakland, along with some of San Francisco's other top offensive performers who have yet to play in the preseason. With rookie first-round draft picks Mike Iupati and Anthony Davis working as starters along the offensive line, the 49ers need to get some work for Gore behind them before the regular season begins Sept. 12.



AP
Texas Rangers' Josh Hamilton, right, gets a congratulations from Vladimir Guerrero after Hamilton's home run in the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Minnesota Twins in Arlington, Texas, Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2010.

Rangers beat Twins, 4-3

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Josh Hamilton hit his 29th home run of the season to help the Texas Rangers beat the Minnesota Twins 4-3 on Tuesday in a clash of American League divisional leaders.

Michael Young made up for two errors with the tiebreaking RBI single in the seventh inning off Carl Pavano (15-9), putting the AL West leaders ahead to stay and ruining Pavano's sixth complete game of the season.

Texas' Darren Oliver (1-1) pitched 1 1-3 scoreless innings to take the win and hard-throwing rookie Neftali Feliz worked the ninth for his 32nd save.

Yankees 11, Blue Jays 5

In Toronto, Curtis Granderson hit a three-run homer to lift New York to a win over Toronto.

Marcus Thames added a two-run drive and three other Yankees hit solo blasts as the Yankees stayed equal top of the AL East.

Thames and Granderson both had three hits among 17 for New York—one shot of its season high.

Yankees starter Dustin Moseley (4-2) allowed two runs in six innings, while Blue Jays starter Marc Rzepczynski (1-2) left after a four-run, three-homer third. He allowed six runs in three innings, his shortest career start.

Rays 10, Angels 3

In Anaheim, Evan Longoria homered and drove in another run as Tampa Bay thrashed Los Angeles to keep pace with the Yankees.

Longoria hit his 19th homer in the third inning, extending the Rays' lead to 5-1. His RBI double with two outs in the seventh made it 7-2.

Matt Joyce also homered as Tampa Bay notched a fourth straight win.

Rookie Wade Davis (10-9) became the fifth Rays starter with 10 or more victories, making them the only major league team to boast such a staff. Davis, who came off the disabled list before the game, allowed two runs in 5 1-3 innings, striking out five.

Tigers 9, Royals 1

In Detroit, Rick Porcello pitched seven scoreless innings to guide Detroit to a comfortable win over Kansas City.

Porcello (6-11) retired the first 12 batters in order before a single leading off the fifth. He walked only one.

Ryan Raburn homered for the Tigers, who have won five straight.

Royals starter Kyle Davies (6-8) gave up seven runs in 4 2-3 innings, walking three.

Athletics 5, Indians 0

In Cleveland, Gio Gonzalez extended Oakland's strong streak of pitching with seven scoreless innings against Cleveland.

Gonzalez (11-8) became the 22nd consecutive Oakland starter to work at least six innings. The Athletics staff has allowed five runs or fewer in all those games, the longest streak by an AL team since the 1989 California Angels.

Oakland starters have a 2.01 ERA and limited opponents to a .198 batting average since July 31, but the Athletics are only 11-11 over that stretch.

Jeff Larish had a two-run homer off Indians starter Fausto Carmona (11-12).

Cleveland was shut out for the 11th time, tying Seattle for most in the AL. Oakland has four of the shutouts against the Indians.

White Sox 7, Orioles 5

In Chicago, Gordon Beckham hit a three-run homer in the seventh as Chicago downed Baltimore.

A.J. Pierzynski opened the bottom of seventh with a single off Orioles starter Jeremy Guthrie. One out later, Mark Teahen's double moved Pierzynski to third. Beckham followed with his homer to break a 2-2 tie.

Chicago starter Gavin Floyd (9-10) pitched seven strong innings, allowing two runs. Guthrie (7-13) was tagged for six runs in 6 2-3 innings.

Giants 16, Reds 5

In San Francisco, the series between San Francisco and Cincinnati is looking like anything but a clash of National League pennant contenders, as the Giants hammered the Reds to make it back-to-back routs.

Pablo Sandoval homered and drove in four runs, and Buster Posey hit a three-run homer for San Francisco.

The Giants have 27 runs in two games against the NL Central leaders, notched their highest score for the season, and moved into a tie with Philadelphia in the wild-card race.

Rockies 5, Braves 2

In Denver, Jorge De La Rosa pitched seven effective innings to

steer Colorado past Atlanta.

De La Rosa (5-4) had his best outing since missing nearly three months with a torn finger tendon. He allowed two runs, struck out seven, and walked just one, earning his second win since coming off the disabled list.

Colorado's Carlos Gonzalez hit his 26th home run of the season as the Rockies edged within five games of the wild-card spot.

Astros 4, Phillies 2, 16 innings

In Philadelphia, Houston's win over Philadelphia lasted 16 innings and over 5 hours.

Phillies pitcher Roy Oswalt was forced to play left field after the ejection of Ryan Howard in the 14th inning, and with no position players left. In so doing, he became the first Phillies pitcher in 39 years to play a field position. Oswalt caught a routine fly ball, earning an ovation from the dwindling number of fans who remained.

The Astros loaded the bases in the 16th with one out off David Herndon (1-3). Chris Johnson reached base on an infield single for one run and Tommy Manzella added a run-scoring fielder's choice.

The Phillies got the tying run to the plate in the bottom of the inning as Houston walked two batters to bring up Oswalt, who grounded out to end the game.

Philadelphia had trailed 2-1 with two outs in the bottom of the ninth when Jimmy Rollins tied the game with a solo homer.

Mets 6, Marlins 5

In New York, Luis Castillo hit a game-ending single with two outs in the ninth inning, lifting New York over Florida.

Castillo, a late-inning replacement, looped a hit to the opposite field off Will Ohman (0-2) to drive in the winning run and help the Mets move into third place in the NL East.

New York blew a two-run lead in the eighth but recovered in the bottom of the ninth. An infield single was followed by a fly out, and a broken-bat single was then followed by a strike out, bringing up Castillo.

Mets reliever Hisanori Takahashi (8-6) pitched a scoreless ninth for the win.

Padres 5, Diamondbacks 0

In San Diego, Will Venable and Chris Denorfia each hit two-run homers to

Damon stays in Detroit, nixes return to Red Sox

DETROIT (AP)—Johnny Damon is staying in Detroit.

The 36-year-old outfielder decided to pass up a chance to return to the Boston Red Sox, rejecting their waiver claim and choosing to remain with the Tigers.

"These guys really like me here," Damon said Tuesday, adding he spoke to each of his teammates individually to be sure he was wanted in the Tigers' clubhouse.

Damon was popular in Boston when he helped the Red Sox win the 2004 World Series to end an 86-year drought. With his long hair and beard, he was part of the group of Red Sox players who called themselves the "Idiots."

He fell out of favor, however, with many Boston fans when he later became a free agent and joined the rival New York Yankees.

"Considering the buzz that Johnny created for many years here, one of the original 'Idiots' of the World Series champions here, I thought it would be a great idea. But sometimes the ideas of others are not the same as the person who actually has to be in the situation," Red Sox outfielder Mike Cameron.

Damon's contract gives him veto power over trades to all but eight teams. Because the Red Sox weren't one of those clubs, he was able to block the move.

Damon said he was leaning toward staying put from the beginning. He texted former Red Sox teammate Jason Varitek and talked to David Ortiz, and both tried to convince him to return to Boston.

"They told me they wanted a spark," Damon said.

Said Varitek: "I reached out to him, as a friend, as a teammate, and ultimately, he's obviously had some decisions to make."

"I can only speak for what Johnny has meant here and what he has done as a player and what he is as a teammate. He would have been a big addition to our team with what he can do," he said.

The banged-up Red Sox began the day 5 1/2 games behind New York and Tampa Bay in the AL East. Detroit started 10 games behind Minne-

sota in the AL Central and far out of wild-card contention.

"This game's tough enough and when you're in a position and you're in a city and you're in a place where you want to be, a place where you're happy, there's no real reason of doing that," Boston closer Jonathan Papelbon said. "I've always admired Johnny since I came here in '05 and he was one of the players that took me under his wing and showed me the big leagues. I wish him nothing but the best."

"I'm not surprised because he's in a situation where he's happy and if he's happy, why not stay? If he's not happy, obviously he would have left."

Damon is hitting .272 with seven home runs and 41 RBIs in 111 games. This is his first season in Detroit.

"I feel like we're not out of it yet," he said. "At least we can make some kind of run."

Damon said he'd like to play in Detroit next year, too, but "there's no guarantee."

Tigers star Miguel Cabrera welcomed Damon's decision.

"It's good for us. He stays here and we can play more together and see what happens. We can do a lot of things," Cabrera said. "We can win more games, we can get more support in the lineup. If he stays here for some reason, it's because he likes it here, he believes in us. That's good."

Said Damon: "I've said Miguel Cabrera was the best hitter I've ever seen and I wanted to see it for a whole year."

Damon talked to Detroit general manager Dave Dombrowski on Monday night before he made his decision and spoke to assistant GM Al Avila and manager Jim Leyland on Tuesday.

"I told him to do what your heart tells you," Leyland said. "Don't worry about the Detroit Tigers, Boston Red Sox, Jim Leyland, Terry Francona or anybody else."

One of Damon's concerns about remaining with the Tigers was his playing time. He was concerned the team might want to look at younger players.

"Yes, he's going to play," Leyland said. "Is he going to play every game? No. He hasn't played every game to this point."

lift NL West-leading San Diego over the last-placed Arizona.

Padres starter Clayton Richard combined with four relievers to shut out the Diamondbacks.

With an NL-best 75-49 record, the Padres matched their win total from last year.

San Diego is beginning a stretch when it will play 16 of 20 games at home, with the away series also against Arizona.

Dodgers 5, Brewers 3

In Milwaukee, Rod Barajas made a smashing debut for Los Angeles with a three-run homer that was enough to beat Milwaukee.

Barajas, who arrived from the Mets on Sunday, started his Dodgers career with consecutive doubles before his game-changing shot in the sixth.

L.A. starter Ted Lilly, who arrived in a July trade, won his fifth straight decision. He had his scoreless innings streak snapped at 17 when he allowed a run in the second.

Pirates 4, Cardinals 3

In Pittsburgh, rookie Neil Walker drove

in three runs and last-place Pittsburgh hung on to edge St. Louis.

The Cardinals, down 4-2 when the ninth started, scored once then loaded the bases, but Pirates closer Evan Meek got two batters to pop up in successions. It was only his second save in eight opportunities.

St. Louis starter Adam Wainwright (17-8) was prevented from becoming the majors' first 18-game winner, despite leading 2-0 in the sixth.

The Cardinals lost their first game in four.

Cubs 5, Nationals 4

In Washington, Alfonso Soriano and Tyler Colvin homered as Chicago overcame Washington.

Carlos Zambrano (5-6) continued his resurgence since rejoining the Chicago rotation. He yielded one run, walked only one and struck out eight over 7 1-3 innings—his longest outing of the year. In four starts since returning from the bullpen, Zambrano is 2-0 with a 2.25 ERA.

The Nationals have lost three straight games and dropped a season-worst 20 games under .500.

Arum, King may save 'The Fight'



MANILA, Philippines—Promoters Bob Arum and Don

King, despite a tempestuous relationship, have been responsible for some of the biggest fights in boxing history, including the historic "Thrilla in Manila."

They just might be the ones to save the biggest fight in ages.

Arum and King believe they can sew up a bout between pound-for-pound champion Manny Pacquiao and undefeated Floyd Mayweather Jr. in as little as two hours—with a catch.

King has to seal the deal

that makes him Mayweather's promoter.

Arum recalled King calling him some time ago to say "believe me if, I end up (promoting Mayweather), you and I will make a deal in maybe two hours."

"Maybe it will take a week-end but we'll make a deal," Arum replied.

Rick Reeno of boxingscene.com reported that King planned to meet Mayweather Jr. soon to continue discussions on a possible working relationship.

King said he had spoken to Mayweather, who called to wish him a happy birthday, and insisted he could generate more mon-

ey for "Money" than anybody else and added "I can make the Pacquiao fight with Bob Arum in a blink of an eye."

Arum earlier told the Inquirer Mayweather was not to blame for the failure of negotiations with Pacquiao, where HBO Sports president Ross Greenburg acted as the go-between.

"What happened was these people were talking with HBO and Mayweather was never on board," said Arum. "He never really wanted to do (the Pacquiao) fight this year."

Meantime, Pacquiao adviser Michael Koncz spoke briefly with Antonio Margarito as they

sat at ringside in Tijuana, where Margarito and his wife supported Jackie Nava, who claimed the WBC female super bantamweight title with a 4th round TKO of Maria Andrea Miranda.

Margarito told Koncz he was "looking forward to the fight with Pacquiao."

Both Arum and Koncz expressed confidence that Margarito will be licensed by the Texas Commission for the planned Nov. 13 bout for the vacant WBC light middleweight title at the Cowboys Stadium.

This despite the fact that the application submitted by the lawyers of Margarito to the Tex-

as Department of Licensing and Regulation was flawed.

Public Information Officer Susan Stanford told the Inquirer that they had received an application from Margarito but noted that "a faxed application is considered an incomplete application because a check for the licensing fee must accompany the application."

Stanford said the Texas Licensing and Regulation department was "under the impression that an application and a check for the licensing fee is in the mail but has not been received by the department's financial services division yet." (PDI)

Bull Shooters, Black Stallions, D'Companeros win Masters

By **WALTER SUTHERLAND**
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Bull Shooters from D'Pirates Bar and Grill defeated Jonny's Bar and Grill's Just for Fun, Buddies Black Stallions defeated sister team Red Horse, and Oleai D'Companeros defeated fellow D'Pirates Bar and Grill tennant M-Destroyers in Saipan Electronic Darts Associations Masters Division matchups last Aug. 18.

Bull Shooters 12, Just for Fun 5

Bull Shooters and Just for Fun



split a pair of Singles Regular Cricket games and a game of partners 501

Double IN/Double Out before Romano Quindoza, Noel Unay, Jonar F. Sembrano and Jun Baltazar of the home team Bull Shooters swept all four Singles Snipers games.

The Bull Shooters also won both Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket matches. Both teams then split a pair of Partners 301 Double In/Double Out games

before the Bull Shooters took the final Team 1001 Cherry Double In/Double Out match.

Black Stallions 12, Red Horse 5

Starring in similar fashion, both teams split a pair of Singles Regular Cricket games and a game of Partners 501 Double In/Double Out before Jun Olita, Noel Saluta, Jun Lapeciros, and Joy Silva of home team Black Stallions swept all four Singles Sniper matches. Then both teams split a game of Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket before

Olita, Saluta and Silva took three of the four Singles 301 Double In/Double Out games. The Black Stallions then went on to win the final 1001 Cherry Double In/Double Out game.

D'Companeros 10, M-Destroyers 7

Anie Legaspi, Leo Lindo, and Eric Durano started well for home team M-Destroyers taking three of the four Singles Regular Cricket matches. Then both teams won a game of Partners 501 Double In/Double Out, but Bing Campo, Junnie Guevarra,

Julius Monton, and Benancio Aguon of the D'Companeros rallied back to sweep all four Singles Sniper matches.

Then both teams split a game of Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket before Aguon, Guevarra, and Monton took three out of the four Singles 301 Double In/Double Out matches. The M-Destroyers won the final Team 1001 Cherry Double In/Double Out game, but it did not matter because Guevarra's win gave the D'Companeros an automatic victory and Monton's win served as some sweet icing on the cake.

CNMI

From Page 28

"Many of the other players, coaches, and even parents approached us and expressed how impressed they were about how our guys kept cheering and picking each other up even when we were down. They noticed how we never argued with the umpires and they also liked a lot of our cheers and singing. Yeah, it would have been nice to win some games, but we learned a lot and our team made a lot of

friends...it was a very fun and special experience for the boys overall," said CNMI manager Jonathan Tenorio.

Game after game, the energy and the cheers brought by the CNMI caused a lot of fans to jump on the their bandwagon. The CNMI quickly won over the crowd, and as fan favorites, they ended up with their own cheering section.

During their stay in Maine, the CNMI Little Leaguers had no trouble making friends with their players from competing

teams. Tenorio said players were hanging out daily, took pictures together and even traded baseball gear amongst each other as parting gifts and as gestures of gratitude and mutual respect.

After the conclusion of the tournament, players traded jerseys, shirts, gloves, hats, and even baseball bats. Some of their new fans and friends bought some CNMI clothes as tokens of remembrance.

The CNMI even hosted an island-style barbeque with some

of the other teams and were told by many that the CNMI party was more fun and had better food than the official banquet.

Looking back on the performance, pretty much everyone that went stateside pointed out that the cold weather was the biggest factor.

Tenorio said that his players were literally shivering out in the field at the start of the first game. Moreover, the CNMI wished that they could have arrived sooner not just to adjust to the cold weather, but

also to adjust to the time difference.

Tenorio said the players' sleeping schedules were all out of whack until halfway through the tourney.

He said they would have also liked to receive some ample practice time on the new field. Tenorio did not, however, list taking a week off of practice before the competition as being a factor to their winless outing, but some players admitted that perhaps it might have been a good idea.

RACE

From Page 28

from the POJC calendar and replacing it with the 15-and-under age group.

"We welcome the change, as now, there is a three-year disparity in all three age groups competitions in POJC," Race said in phone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Besides the 15-and-under age group, POJC will also have competitions in the 12-and-under and 18-and-under divisions. The U12 age group was introduced only this year.

"Our 14-and-under players, Jake Lee and Christian Miller, will get a chance to be competitive in the U15 for one more year. Our players, who are over the U14 age group, initially have a difficult time pairing against U18 players, so the change in the age group will be good for them. They have at least one more year to solidify their game," Race said.

"The same goes with our U12 players. They have a tough time competing in U14, so having a U12 division sort of balance the competition. This is great for the program in the region, es-

pecially for our young players," the CNMI coach added.

Miller, who competed in the U14 division in the past four years and consistently made it to the Final Four, was elated with the change.

"Now, I still have one more year to compete against players in my age group and hopefully get my first win," said Miller, who was named Tan Siu Lin Foundation/NMASA Male Student Athlete of the Month (for June).

Miller topped the U14 division of the North Qualifying Tournament played on Saipan in June before going to Fiji

last month for the POJC. In the POJC, he finished third, downing Fiji's Geordie Daulaca, 6-2, 7-6 (9).

Negahr Rastguiy also appreciated OTF's decision to have competition in three age groups. She competed in the U12 in the NPQ and pulled off a come-from-behind win over Palau's Ayana Rengil in the finals on Saipan.

In Fiji, Rastguiy made it to the semifinals and went to beat the Solomon Island's Vinda Teally in the battle for third place, 6-1, 6-3. Rastguiy was later chosen Tan Siu Lin Foundation/

NMASA Female Student Athlete of the Month (for June).

Joining Rastguiy and Miller in Fiji were Thea Minor, Rafael and Angelo Jones, Chris Cajigan, Carl Dela Cruz, Mikayla Lopez, Melody Johnson, and Jake Lee.

The 14-year-old Minor placed seventh in the U18 division, while Rafael Jones was 12th in the same age group. Cajigan finished third and Cruz was ninth in the U12. Lopez and Johnson ranked fifth and sixth, respectively, in the U14, while Lee and Angelo Jones placed fifth and 10th, respectively, in the same division.

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teams are the Rollers 1 and 2 and joining them are G-Stars, Agape, Kagman, Ol'Aces, the Sonics, and Hi-5.

League organizers are still waiting for confirmation from the Sixers, who won the U18 division of the Rotary caging last year, and the Chalan Kanoa Saints.

In the U15 division, four

teams are in, namely the Rollers, Ol'Aces, Hopwood Junior High School, and the G-Stars.

Interested teams have until Sept. 6 to confirm their participation in the league. Registration and waiver forms, birth certificates and the \$100 entrance fee are also due on Sept. 6. Entrance fee should be made payable to Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands

Before the league starts, BANMI is encouraging players

and members of the coaching staff to attend three clinics—the Level 0 coaching seminar, CPR and AED training session, scores table official and junior referee clinic

The venue and schedule for the CPR and AED clinic, which will be held through the help of the American Red Cross, NMI Chapter, will be announced later. while the coaching seminar is set for Sept. 4 at the Ada Gym with BANMI president Elias

Rangamar as instructor. The coaching clinic is mandatory.

FIBA International referee Gabriel White will conduct the clinic for table officials and referees, but the schedule will be announced later, as White is still in Singapore, officiating in the 2010 Youth Olympics.

Individuals who are not involved in the league are still welcome to attend the three clinics.

"As part of Rotary Club of Saipan and Rotary International-

al's avenues of service and to better serve the community and share the same strategic plan in assisting the future development of coaches, players and other participants, team representatives and followers, the following programs will be conducted for free," Rangamar said.

For more information about the league and the clinics, contact White at awaawaa@hotmail.com or Rangamar at elirang@yahoo.com.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
MLB STANDINGS				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	78	48	.619	—
Tampa Bay	78	48	.619	—
Boston	72	54	.571	6
Toronto	65	60	.520	12 1/2
Baltimore	44	82	.349	34
Central Division				
Minnesota	72	54	.571	—
Chicago	68	57	.544	3 1/2
Detroit	63	63	.500	9
Kansas City	53	73	.421	19
Cleveland	50	75	.400	21 1/2
West Division				
Texas	71	54	.568	—
Oakland	62	62	.500	8 1/2
Los Angeles	62	65	.488	10
Seattle	49	76	.392	22
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Atlanta	73	53	.579	—
Philadelphia	70	55	.560	2 1/2
New York	63	62	.504	9 1/2
Florida	62	62	.500	10
Washington	53	73	.421	20
Central Division				
Cincinnati	72	54	.571	—
St. Louis	68	55	.553	2 1/2
Milwaukee	59	66	.472	12 1/2
Houston	56	69	.448	15 1/2
Chicago	53	74	.417	19 1/2
Pittsburgh	42	84	.333	30
West Division				
San Diego	75	49	.605	—
San Francisco	71	56	.559	5 1/2
Colorado	65	60	.520	10 1/2
Los Angeles	64	62	.508	12
Arizona	49	77	.389	27
Yesterday's Games				
Chicago Cubs 5, Washington 4				
Houston 4, Philadelphia 2, 16 innings				
Pittsburgh 4, St. Louis 3				
N.Y. Mets 6, Florida 5				
L.A. Dodgers 5, Milwaukee 3				
Colorado 5, Atlanta 2				
San Diego 5, Arizona 0				
San Francisco 16, Cincinnati 5				
Detroit 9, Kansas City 1				
Oakland 5, Cleveland 0				
N.Y. Yankees 11, Toronto 5				
Seattle at Boston, ppd., rain				
Texas 4, Minnesota 3				
Chicago White Sox 7, Baltimore 5				
Tampa Bay 10, L.A. Angels 3				
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				

CAREYS

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Saipan people give me their support. They are one of the sources of my power," Mieko said.

"I would like to thank all my supporters, this race is for them. Also, my sincere appreciation to my sponsors, Brabu, Salomon, and Louis Garneau, my family, my husband, friends, and to the doctors, who treat my injuries. To the people who always wave from their car every time they see me biking or running, thank you very much," Mieko added.

Mieko will be competing in the 1.2-kilometer swim, 25-km mountain bike race, and 10-km run event this Saturday and will be up against several pros from Japan and Korea.

"I don't think Renata Bucher will join the race and I am not sure how many pros but I expect several women pros in the race. My goal is to defend my title and to feel a sense of achievement after the race. I will give myself a big hug after the race," Mieko said.

Last year, Meiko completed Japan XTERRA in three hours and 16 seconds to finish ahead of Australian pro Kylee Lock by less than four minutes.

Besides the championship race, XTERRA Japan will feature several other activities this weekend. On Friday, a Japanese pro will conduct XTERRA University, which is a clinic for swimming, biking, and running. On Sunday, three events are scheduled, XTERRA Trail Run, XTERRA Kids Light, and Family Walk.

NMA Micro Games victory/send-off party

PHOTOS AND TEXT By MARK RABAGO



Yvonne, left, and Yvette Bennett hold the Northern Marianas Athletics banner during the victory/send-off party hosted by the organization last Aug. 16 at the Coral Ocean Point poolside.



Yvette and Yvonne Bennett share a light moment at the podium as they say thanks and goodbye to teammates, a couple of days before the twins flew to Idaho where they will enroll at Boise State University.



Yvonne and Yvette Bennett—affectionately called *dingas* (twins in Chamorro)—promised to suit up for the CNMI in the 2014 Micro Games in Pohnpei.



Yvonne and Yvette Bennett pose with their parents, former Board of Education teachers representative Ambrose and his wife Lilian.



Yvonne Bennett, right, and Reylyn Sapong, left, are just about ready to cut their birthday cake.



NMA recent birthday celebrants have fun with their birthday cake. From left, Reylyn Sapong, Yvonne Bennett, Lia Rangamar, Tyrone Omar, Yvette Bennett, J.R. Gechig, and Ed Manalili.



Majority of the CNMI athletics team in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau pose with NMA officials and Mr. and Mrs. Bennett during the victory/send-off party.

Rangers beat
Twins, 4-3

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Doctors clear Yao
for basketball
activities

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 2010

Careys leave for XTERRA Japan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The husband-and-wife tandem of Mieko and Kevin Carey left Saipan yesterday to compete in the 2010 XTERRA Japan Championship in Marunuma, Gunma Prefecture.



Mieko will be joining the pro division and will be aiming to defend the women's championship, while Kevin is entered in the amateur category.

When she guns for back-to-back titles, Mieko said, she will have Saipan

on her mind and will use the support of the people here as motivation.

"It will be a tough race, but I know I can do it. I trust myself and appreciate people who cheer me for me even though they are on Saipan and would not be able to see me cross the finish line. I appreciate how

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CNMI All-Stars bring home Sportsmanship Award

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The CNMI Senior All-Stars returned last Tuesday from Bangor, Maine after competing in the 2010 Senior League World Series and brought with them the Daniel E. Clifford Memorial Sportsmanship Award.

Engraved on the plaque was the



Tenorio

Little League motto, known as Danny's Way, which states for players to, "Play Hard – Play Fair – and Have Fun."

At the awards banquet held after the championship, the CNMI received the award to a standing ovation. The CNMI team was given many props for traveling from so far away and maintaining their sporting attitude in the tournament even though they did not win a game.

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Rotary caging opens shop on Sept. 10

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League will kick off its 2010 season on Sept. 10 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The youth league will have competitions in two age groups to prepare play-



ers for upcoming tournaments in Micronesia. The U19 division so far has attracted 10 teams, but only eight have

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Jeff Race, seen here returning a shot to Guam's Wendell Roden during the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau, said the age group modification in the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships is good for the program in the region.

Race welcomes age modification in POJC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



CNMI coach Jeff Race considered as good news the age modification in the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.

The Commonwealth coach was talking of Oceania Tennis Federation's decision last month, scrapping the 14-and-under division

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The Rollers' Lawrence Deleon Guerrero pulls up for a shot against an Ol'Aces player during last year's Rotary caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The Ol'Aces and Rollers will compete in the U19 division of the youth league, which will kick off on Sept. 10.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Mieko Carey, seen here nearing the finish line of the triathlon competition in the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau early this month, left Saipan yesterday to join XTERRA Japan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO